



Sierra Outpost

We did it!! Yard sale 2023



—Bonnie Little

What does it take to pull off a successful yard sale?

- A lovely couple who offered their home and yard. Thank you, Helene and Bill Fiske!
- An ad in the Gazette that ran for four weeks.
- Numerous emails sent to members.
- A village of members and friends who collected and brought their treasures to be sold.
- Over 21 tables borrowed to display the items.
- More than 23 dedicated members who volunteered to work, even on the hottest days of the season thus far.

- 2 ½ trips to the dump and 3 ½ trips to the thrift shops with the leftovers.

It truly did take a village! Thank you, everyone!

People are wondering how much money we made. We do not have the final total yet. Money is still coming in after the sale and people need to be reimbursed for their expenses. We will announce the total as soon as possible. Stay tuned!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Annual Meeting/ Nominations	3
California Connection	6
Contact Info	14
Events Calendar	4
Leadership Team-Message	2
Leadership Team Meeting Minutes	12
Membership:	
Member Assistance	5
Member Directory	7
Member Idea Exchange	6
Membership Renewal	7
SIG: Book	10
SIG: Garden	11
SIG: Great Decisions	9
SIG: Hiking	10
SIG: International Study	9
SIG: Play Reading	10
Tech Trek	4
Yard Sale	1

Click on the article title for a direct link to its page.

⇒ **Annual Meeting— page 3**

⇒ **Membership Renewal— page 6**



Leadership Team

Salute to our branch members!

—Jody Sergienko

This was my last year serving as president of the branch and it is so hard to let go of this amazing leadership team. Alas, it is time. So as a wise dolphin once said, “So long and thanks for all the fish!” (If you have not read the *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, I highly recommend it!)

Here is the post-pandemic world we have all been waiting for. There have been changes for all of us. Some were good while some others were not so good. For me, I am now working a “real” job with new challenges and adventures ahead. Before diving into those new challenges, I wanted to reflect on the challenging year we have just passed through as members of the AAUW community.

Covid, of course, challenged the way we lived our lives, as well as threatened them at the same time. We adapted by learning Zoom, going more digital, having better health habits, and coming together as a community for each other. This virus is not gone. Like us, it has adapted to stick around and live with us. With that in mind, stay safe and continue using those new healthy habits!

Let’s not forget the fires which came along before the pandemic, during the pandemic, and, fingers crossed, hopefully not this year after. 2022 just had to be different! First, it sent us record snows and then followed with damaging floods. Despite it all, our members still come together and make our branch thrive.

We thrive because of the good that comes from this group. Tech Trek sent girls to virtual camp when in-person camp shut down. Not only did we send our allotted number of girls, but we were able to send additional girls! We have members who serve on the state board for AAUW California giving us a stronger voice. This branch piloted AAUW’s new program, Gov Trek, as well as continued to refine the Tech Connect program. Kids got way cool backpacks filled with all they needed to take to school with them.

Let’s not forget our programs! Over these last few years, there have been so many great community programs. I may have been the sole name listed (as president) on the state site, but our magnificent Leadership Team put all these on as a group. Working as a group we were able to do so much with so many challenges.

Gratitude is a feeling of appreciation for what and who we have in our lives. I am so grateful for all of you. This branch has helped each other through difficult times: to be better people, to expand our sphere of experiences, and to find joy.

From all of us on the Leadership Team, thank you for being part of AAUW Mariposa this 22/23 year.

Leadership Team

Nomination slate for 2023-24

—Trish Darcy

On June 11th at our Annual Meeting for our branch, we will be voting on our slate of officers for the 2023-2024 year. Please put this date on your calendar so that you can join us for a Tantalizing Tropical Time! Plan your tropical attire and find further details on the Evite that was sent out. (click [here](#) for direct link to the Evite .

Here is the current list of nominations:

- **Admin:**
Trish Darcy
- **Finance:**
Dina Lambert
- **Membership:**
Bonnie Little and Dina Lambert
- **Secretary:**
Becky Mock
- **Members at Large:**
Kim Monson
Liz Darcy
Jody Sergienko

Other positions:

- **Publicity/Communications** _____
- **Programs** _____
- **Fundraising** _____
- **Tech Trek**
Trish Darcy
Barbara Silva
- **Tech Connect**
Kim Monson
Rebecca Swisher
- **Backpack Project**
Kim Monson
Rebecca Swisher

From the editor: Please note that there are a few blanks that need to be filled. There are also several names that appear more than once on this list. Have you a bit of time to help someone on this list? Could your name be added to one of the blanks? Don't hesitate to contact someone already listed!



“Tantalizing Tropical Time”

Come join us for a potluck followed by a quick review of the year. We'll vote on our slate of officers for next year and then enjoy some socializing. Bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. Iced tea, lemonade, and water will be provided. Tropical dress is optional.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 11

12:00 Noon

Home of Trish Darcy

[Click here for address](#)

We Inspire Life-Long Learning

Events Calendar

2023

- June 6 **SIG—Book:** 4:30pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum
- June 10 **SIG—Hiking:** time and place TBD
- June 11 **Annual Meeting:** 12:00 noon, home of Trish Darcy
- June 13 **SIG—International Study:** 5:30pm, home of Jill Rowney
- July 8 **SIG—Hiking:** time and place TBD



Project: Tech Trek



“Dorm Mom” answers critical camp questions

—Trish Darcy

We held a meeting on May 21st with the six girls and their parents to give them an overview of what camp would be like as well as allow them to ask questions. Dawna Hunter was our knowledge source as she has served as a Dorm Mom at camp for several years.

An interesting tidbit that I learned about camp was that there is a talent show where girls can show off their skills. Another bit is that the campers eat in the dining hall and have a wide variety of food to choose from at each meal. However, if none of the offerings at any meal suits their fancy, they can always have peanut butter and jelly--for a whole week!

The girls had several good questions to ask such as:

- “Can I sit with my friend at meals?” (Yes, but for the first few days they are asked

(Continued on page 5)

HARP
INSURANCE
SERVICES

Cindy Harp
AGENT
CA LICENSE NO. 0M04815
CELL: 831-241-1611
EMAIL: 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

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

(Continued from page 4)

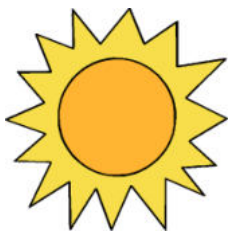
to sit with their dorm groups).

- “Can I bring a book?” (Of course, but we encourage interactions with other girls during activities. Reading is good for the little bit of downtime they have).
- “Can I call a friend?” (Nope. The girls won’t have their cell phones and won’t need them. They will be so engulfed in the activities that they will be “unplugged” for the week. They will call home Friday



night to remind their parents to pick them up in the morning just in case the parent has not noticed they have been gone all week).

The afternoon ended with cookies and ice cream and some “get to know you time” for the girls and parents before they head off to camp in 18 days. This is a very eager group and we look forward to hearing from them when they return!



Being there for each other

Please let me know whenever you or any member needs our support. I will get the word out. We are definitely stronger together!

—Anne Dolchanczyk

We Sponsor Community Forums

Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



Member Corner: Idea exchange

Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining

—Bonnie Little

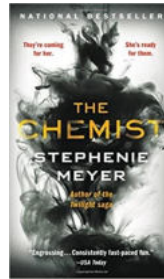
During one of the very few quiet moments at our yard sale, we had a few minutes to discuss good programs to watch. Georgia Gallagher, Trish Darcy, and Helene Fiske enthusiastically recommended **Call the Midwife**, a series on PBS.

Past seasons are also streaming on Netflix. It is a BBC period drama about a



group of nurse midwives working in the east end of London in the late 1950s and 1960s. This very popular series has already produced 12 seasons and the 13th season is currently filming. Netflix has seasons 1 through 11 available.

For summer reading, if you would like a page-turner that is hard to put down, Jill Rowney highly recommends **The Chemist** by Stephanie Meyer. *Living life under various pseudonyms – but mostly known in the period we*



meet her as Alex – she’s a medic and an interrogator who worked for a shadowy branch of the US government torturing terrorists before her bosses turned on her. Now she is a fugitive. One reader

described the heroine as a female “Jason Bourne”. This is a far cry from Stephanie Meyer’s *Twilight*! Hold on!

I recently read a novel by Mary Kubica titled **Just the Nicest Couple**.

When a man disappears under suspicious circumstances, a young couple tries to conceal their involvement.

The wife of the missing man begins to wonder how they might be involved and how much they know.

This book really kept my interest through many twists and turns and had an ending that did not disappoint.



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 Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

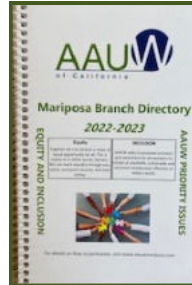
Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert

Did you get your 2022-23 directory?

—Bonnie Little

Each year we publish a directory of our members with pictures and contact information. It has glossy paper and a spiral binding. We are very proud of the finished product.



What's the problem, you ask? Well, there are 13 directories with members' names on them that did not get distributed. We tried to hand out directories at our programs, at Special Interest Groups, or any other way we could think of. AAUW members are busy people and not everyone was able to make it to an event. So, how about mailing as we have done in the past? We encountered a major problem with mailing costs. In previous years, we were able to mail each directory for a cost in the \$1.00 range. This year the post office decided that our fancy spiral binding caused too

many problems going through the processing machine and raised the mailing cost for each directory to over \$5.00!

This has been a frustrating situation and we obviously need to go back to the drawing board to design a directory that will go in the mail without breaking the bank! Some members have questioned if we can have an online directory.

Great idea, but it won't work for security purposes. We do not want information out there that might not be secure. If you have ever been hacked, you can understand!

If you are one of our 13 directory-deprived members, please contact me, Bonnie Little, and I will arrange to put it in your hands!

mbmslitttle@sti.net

Time to renew AAUW membership

—Dina Lambert

Your AAUW membership renewal is due by June 30th. I have received some checks that I have processed and a few members have renewed online. There are options on how you can renew.

1. Renew online by following this link and logging into your account. <https://www.aauw.org>. It's a process if you haven't created or logged into your account yet so I recommend doing #2 or #3 or refer to the email I sent out May 8th on renewing online.
2. Bring your check made out to AAUW Mariposa to the Annual Meeting on June 11th.
3. Mail your check made out to AAUW Mariposa

to Dina Lambert 4939 Ponderosa Way, Mid-pines, CA 95345.

For those who renew by the annual meeting on June 11th, you will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate! And if you bring a potential new member to the annual meeting you will have a second chance at winning a gift certificate

The total renewal price is \$107. The breakdown on where this money goes is \$72 to National, \$20 to State, and \$15 to our branch. Membership is for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

We Open Eyes

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 Value Education



To Page 1



SIG: International Study

Veronica Gross

Food from the Baltic

—Jill Rowney

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 13 at 5:30pm (Jill's house) where we will enjoy samplings of food from Estonia and Finland.



SIG: Great Decisions

Contact Becky Mock

Climate change and dealing with its resulting effects

—Betty Massey

The Great Decisions article for this month's meeting was entitled ***Climate change, environmental degradation, and migration***. Several of our members had unexpected personal issues that prevented them from attending, which limited our ability to have a lively discussion.

I thought the article was interesting and pointed out many complex issues that have arisen. One surprising fact of note is that the first climate change migration in the United States is on the coast of Louisiana, on the island of Jean Charles. The island is suffering from rising sea levels and damage from Hurricane Ida in 2021. It is very likely that we Americans will encounter all the same problems of internal crises and displacement as we currently have with migration from elsewhere. (An example is the Dust Bowl era. The people migrating from the Midwest were

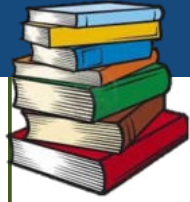
greatly resented by the local people in California).

With the political divide within our country, it is difficult for us to help other countries find means of coping with the issues of crises we all routinely face, much less looking at preparing for or preventing issues that will come 40 years in the future.

A discussion yet to be had is what we can learn about supporting the fertility of our own land and how to adjust our growing practices to use less water while growing more food; how to hold water in the soil. The program video touched on this, but nothing really focused on what we as landowners can do to adjust to our changing circumstances.

If anyone is interested here is a YouTube video about building great soil: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErMHR6Mc4Bk>

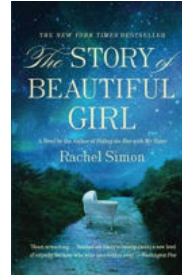
We Inspire Life-Long Learning



SIG - Book

Saralynn Nusbaum

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, June 6 at 4:30 pm
 at the home of Sara Lynn Nusbaum
 We will be discussing:
The Story of Beautiful Girl
 By Rachel Simon



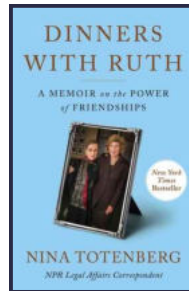
Dinners With Ruth

By Nina Totenberg

Discussion notes

by Jill Rowney

The subtitle for this ***Dinners With Ruth***, “A Memoir on the Power of Friendships,” is a far more accurate title for this lovely compilation of anecdotes. If one expected to learn a great deal about Ruth Bader Ginsberg’s life and personal interactions, one might be a little disappointed. In our book discussion, we decided that the selection of this particular title was more of a selling point. A typical reaction from the group was, “If this was advertised as a



memoir of Nina Totenberg, I wouldn’t have read it.”

That being said, we did find the book an enjoyable read, with personal anecdotes about many well-known figures from NPR and Washington D.C.

This compilation does not read chronologically, so we’re a little confused when in one chapter, her husband, Frank, becomes ill and dies and in the next chapter he is alive and well.

Nina’s style is very relaxed and easy to read. There is an overall gentle quality to her stories, depicting how important friends are and how fragile life can be.



SIG: Hiking

Contact [Trish Darcy](#)

Hikers took the month of May off and plan to hit the trails again on June 10. Contact Trish for details.



SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

The last gathering for the Play Reading Group before our summer hiatus will be Thursday, June 1 at 9:30am at Dawn

Johnson’s home. We will be reading *Dead Ringer* by Charles Ross.

We Inspire Life-Long Learning



SIG: Garden

Contact [Karen Smith](#)

Twenty-four years of research (or “Examining the appetites of the mule deer”)

—Karen Smith

OK, so what do deer not eat? Well, meat and dairy for sure they don't eat... not sure about chocolate and sugary drinks, and probably not coffee drinks.... or alcohol. So, what is left? I always swore they decimated anything green and leafy. However, I have been studying the little devils around the house and after some 24 years of observation and experimentation, have come to some conclusions:

1. They will eat anything that grows if they are hungry enough... even iris in the fall.
2. They don't particularly like native shrubs to the point of killing them. They will browse in the spring and summer heavily but that just saves you time from having to prune.
3. They do eat weeds!
4. Keep anything you want to eat yourself behind an 8' fence or in a green house.
5. They appear to be interested in climbing the stairs to the upper deck just to see if there anything green and leafy.

So, if you want some flowers, what are some of your options? Here are some plants that have worked in my garden:

- Buckwheat, all sorts, especially the yellow flowering kind, and yes, the deer just walk right by them while in full bloom.



- Salvia, Cleveland sage, blue eyed grass, rosemary, oregano, native grasses, santolina, lavender, lilac, iris, rockrose, mock orange, cotoneaster, native lupine and poppies (collect seeds from the plants that grow along the roads and just throw them around your yard). Not only will the deer not kill these plants, but the bees will love you for it.

As for gophers and ground squirrels? Don't get me started on those children of Satan!

Editor's note: My lilac bushes have been systematically pruned up to about 5 feet. I guess the deer down here at my elevation (1700') have a more robust appetite. I would add to the list of plants the deer are likely to ignore: creeping thyme, humming bird sage, and lychness.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



AAUW - Mariposa Branch
 Leadership Team Meeting
 May 1, 2023
 Library
 6:00 p.m.

Members:

- Dina Lambert, Co-Finance Officer/Membership-unable to attend
- Rebecca Swisher, Co-Finance Officer-phoned in
- 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-unable to attend
- Anne Dolchanczyk, Member at Large-unable to attend

Meeting called to order at 6 pm by Jody.

Minutes (*Trish Darcy*):

- Approval of April meeting minutes-approved online and sent to Jill for inclusion in the newsletter.

Membership Update (*Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little*)

- Current Member Renewals-National has sent out an email to renew. When Dina gets back she will send an email to members on how to renew.
- Directory Update-for next year's board, we need to re-evaluate how directories are distributed. We have several that never got delivered this year.

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

- Income: \$15 District dues, \$600 Tech Trek donation, \$1200 for the Tech Trek Girl fundraiser for a total of **\$1815.00**.
- Expenses: \$6 web hosting fee, \$149.90 for Zoom, \$85.50 for Tech Trek bears, \$900 to send an extra girl to camp for a total of **\$1141.40**.
- This leaves an ending balance of **\$3260.60**.
- Dina will send this out for approval as we did not have enough people at the meeting to vote on it.
- Dina will need to send out the March report for online approval as well.

Standing Projects:

- **Backpack** (*Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*): This will gear up in the summer. Kim will announce at the June 11th Annual Meeting and then she will send out an email shortly after that.
- **Tech Trek** (*Trish Darcy*): We have our 6th girl set and paid for. The parents have all received the email asking them to fill out the registration online. We have a meeting set up for May 21st to have the girls meet a previous camper and the parents meet with Kim and Donna.
- **Tech Connect** (*Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*): Will deal with next fall.

(Continued on page 13)

We Sponsor Community Forums

(Continued from page 12)

Fundraisers:

- **Yard Sale:** This will be May 19th and 20th at Helene and Bill Fiske's house. It will be in the classified ads of the Gazette and News in Brief. We are good on tables. We have volunteers, but could always use more. Bonnie will run the sale Friday and Kathy Delaney will run Saturday clean up.
- **Online TT fundraiser "Send a Girl to Camp."** We have only raised \$1200 so far. We put it in the newsletter for May to see if we can get more donations.

Programs: These are our current plans

- **Cinco de Mayo gathering:** 5:00 at the Grove House. Just social time.
- **June 11th Annual Meeting:**
 - This will be at Trish Darcy's house at 1:00. It is a potluck and people should bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. We will eat first and then hold the meeting. In the meeting, we'll ask for any other volunteers for next year's team, vote on the Leadership Team for next year, approve the financial report, do a quick report of the year, and do the Backpack Project kickoff.
 - Trish will get paper goods. AAUW will provide drinks-water (Trish will do this),, lemonade (Kim will bring this) and iced tea (Trish will do this.). BYOB if you want something different.
 - Trish will send out the Evite May 21st.

Old Business:

New Slate of officers

- President: Trish Darcy
- Finance Officer: Dina Lambert
- Membership: Dina Lambert and Bonnie Little
- Secretary:
- Member at Large: Kim Monson
- Member at Large: Jody Sergienko
- Member at Large: Liz Darcy

Other positions open:

- Publicity/Communications:
- Programs:
- Fundraising:
- Tech Trek: Trish Darcy and Barbara Silva
- Tech Connect: Kim Monson and Rebecca Swisher
- Backpack Project: Kim Monson and Rebecca Swisher

New Business:

(Continued on page 14)

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

(Continued from page 13)

- Our planning meeting for the new team will be on July 9th or July 23rd. We'll start at 10:00 and break to have lunch then continue if needed.
- We opted to put the projector screen in the yard sale as the places that we use already have a screen. The old broken banner will be repurposed to use with a pop up.

Newsletter Assignments:

- Member Profile: Kim will do this for June
- Lead article for June (Admin Overview): Jody will do this

Leadership Meeting Lead:

- June Agenda: June 11th-Jody will do this

Branch Buzz (Trish Darcy):

- Trish Darcy will send out the Branch Buzz

Action Items:

- Dina will send out the financials for approval online.
- Trish will send out Evite for the Annual Meeting.

Upcoming Dates:

- May 5th gathering at Grove House 5 pm
- June 11th Annual Meeting at Trish Darcy's house 1 pm

Meeting adjourned at: 6:35 pm

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
		AAUW	https://aauw.org/
		AAUW California	http://www.aauw-ca.org/

We Open Eyes