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## Sierra Outpost

# Membership approves Leadership Team slate for 2023-34

—Trish Darcy

On June 11th we met on the deck at Trish Darcy's house for our annual meeting. We started off with yummy food and good conversation. The weather was nice and cool. There was even the possibility of rain, but it held off just for us!

Jody then gave a quick overview of the year including our programs, SIGs, and events. Lots had happened in the last year. We ended with electing our new Leadership Team for 2023-2024. We are always looking for people who want to be involved in the leadership. It does not have to be a full position-you can co-chair with someone. If you want to be a part of

leadership, whether in a larger role or a small part, contact us. We can find a role for everyone! Here is your new team:

**President:**

**Trish Darcy**

**Finance:**

**Dina Lambert**

**Membership:**

**Bonnie Little**

**Dina Lambert**

**Secretary:**

**Becky Mock**

**Members at Large:**

**Kim Monson**

**Jody Sergienko**

**Anne Dolchanczyk**

**Liz Darcy**

**Fundraising:**

**Sandi Gabe**

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

**Programs:**

(open)

**Publicity:**

(open)

**Newsletter:**

**Jill Rowney**

**Good Will Ambassador:**

**Anne Dolchanczyk**

# Leadership Team

## Members enjoy our branch's annual meeting



# Events Calendar

## 2023

- July 8      **SIG—Hiking:** time and place TBD
- July 11    **SIG—Book:** 5:00pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum (moved to the following week due to July 4th festivities)
- August 8   **SIG—International Study:** 5:15pm, home of Jill Rowney



# We Value Education



## Project: Tech Trek



—Trish Darcy

**Six girls on their way to their STEM adventure.  
Thanks to all who helped make it happen!**



## Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



**Another member of our branch appointed to  
serve as Judge on the Superior Court**

Last year, local member Anita Starchman Bryant was appointed to serve as Judge on the Mariposa County Superior Court. This year, Vinita Bali joins the elite ranks, having just been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Santa Clara County Superior Court. For the official announcement from Governor Newsom's desk, click [here](#). Congratulations, Vinita!



We Inspire Life-Long Learning

## Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



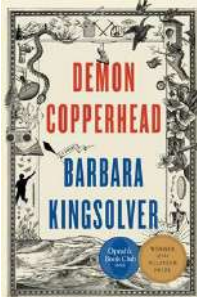
### Member Corner: Idea exchange

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

—Bonnie Little

Jill Harry shared three excellent recommendations for books.

Here we go!



#### ***Demon Copperhead*** by

Barbara Kingsolver is a story told by Demon Fields, first named Demon by his classmates and later named Copperhead for his red hair.

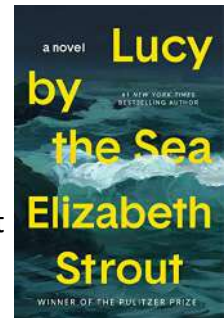
The novel follows the storyline of *David Copperfield*

and is termed a *Bildungsroman*, which is defined as a novel dealing with one person's formative years or spiritual education. In this case, the protagonist had a very rough journey from being a child to becoming an adult. Demon is an engaging and likeable narrator who weaves a good deal of humor in describing situations. This is good, as his story goes from one catastrophe to another, with very few bits of good times. Demon's charm, and Kingsolver's skilled writing makes one want to continue reading to see what happens next. Barbara Kingsolver is a prolific and well-reviewed writer who has authored over twelve bestselling novels. This novel won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Elizabeth Strout's 2022 novel, *Lucy by the*

*Sea*, is the story of Lucy Barton, a successful author in her 60s who is divorced from her philandering first husband with whom she shares two daughters. She married again and lived in New York City with her second husband who played in an orchestra. He

passed away, leaving Lucy a widow. At the beginning of the pandemic her ex-husband, William, convinces her to come to a small town in Maine. She anticipates that it will be a short visit, but then stays with him for over a



year. Even as the pandemic continues, Lucy comes to terms with her evolving relationship with William while adjusting to life as a widow, combined with seeing their daughters and making new friends and acquaintances in her new life in Maine. Jill says that this is a charming read/listen. This book has been very well reviewed by many sources, with one reviewer calling it "One of the best books of the year!"

In her 2020 novel, *A Thousand Ships*, author Natalie Haynes tells stories of the Trojan War from the perspective of the women usually

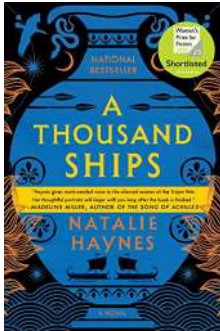
(Continued on page 5)

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

## Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert

(Continued from page 4)



seen in only supportive roles in Homer's *Iliad and Odyssey* and other novels. Most of the women's lives end in rather unpleasant ways, but few would have you feel sorry for them. Haynes gives

them depth, strength, and courage to get through what the gods have in store for them. One reviewer wrote that the author's extensive knowledge of Greek mythology shines through her skillful storytelling. Jill concurs with that opinion. Haynes narrates the audio version and has a great voice for it. This novel was on the shortlist for the 2020 Women's Prize for Fiction.

Jill also gave me excellent recommendations for podcasts, tv, and movies. Thank you, Jill! These will be featured in next month's newsletter. Stay tuned!

Are you looking for an activity to keep busy and involved in something meaningful?

Dawna Hunter has a great suggestion!

### Become a Mariposa History Museum Docent.

A docent greets guests and helps in the gift shop. Dawna just started back there this past February. She said, "It is really fun helping guests from all over the world learn about the gold story (of the Mother Lode)." A docent's shift is three hours: mornings (9:45 to 12:45) or afternoons (12:45 to 4:00). Dawna also mentioned that the tour is self-guided, so you don't have to be a history expert!

Thank you, Dawna, for suggesting this as one way to get involved and have fun. It is a nice addition to our Member Corner. I would love to hear from other members about activities that enrich and provide enjoyment.



## 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 Sponsor Community Forums



To Page 1

**SIG Overview**

## Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>International Study</b> <u>Veronica Gross</u></p>  <p>Learn about a country, a culture, and a people. We study one country each year and meet bi-monthly.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Book Group</b> <u>Saralynn Nusbaum</u></p>  <p>This group meets monthly to discuss both fiction and non-fiction books members chose to read the previous month.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Great Decisions</b> <u>Becky Mock</u></p>  <p>This discussion group meets monthly to discuss a set of topics developed by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Garden Group</b> <u>Karen Smith</u></p>  <p>The Gardening group meets to discuss a wide range of topics such as the challenges of gardening in the foothills.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Environment &amp; Social Issues</b> <u>Gary Colliver</u></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Play Reading Group</b> <u>Dawn Johnson</u></p>  <p>“The play’s the thing!” meets monthly to do cold readings of various plays that are shared by several California branches.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hiking Group</b> <u>Trish Darcy</u></p>  <p>The hiking group meets monthly to enjoy each other’s company while hiking new trails in and around Mariposa and Yosemite.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Art Group</b> <u>Jody Sergienko</u></p>  <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wine Tasting</b> <u>Carolyn Baker, Cindy Harp</u></p>  <p>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.</p>

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential





## SIG: International Study

[Veronica Gross](#)

# Food from the Baltic Region

—Jill Rowney

To finish our exploration of Finland and Estonia, the International Study Group met at Jill Rowney's home for a wonderful array of traditional foods of those countries. Those included a delicious Finnish pea soup (*hernekeitto*) and a wonderful Estonian potato salad (*kartulisalat*) which, though being traditional foods of the two countries, were very similar to the traditional standard soup and salad we appreciate here in America. Less familiar were foods like Estonian *Kohupiimakreem*, a simple cheese/cream dessert with fresh fruit.

Marti Fazio treated us to the Finnish "Long Drink" (*lonkero*), coined as the "best canned cocktail in the world." It is traditionally made



from gin and grapefruit juice, but now comes in many fruit flavors. It was originally introduced in 1952 when the Olympic Games were held in Helsinki. Finland was still recovering from the effects of World War II and the Finnish

government wanted to create something that was quick to make and had "easy-drinking" appeal. They invented this drink to help bartenders deal with the influx of tourists and spectators. It was a definite "hit!"

We will resume our meetings in August and focus on selected regions of Mexico. Contact [Veronica Gross](#) if you are interested in coming.



## SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

# Dead Ringer was a "doppelganger"

—Dawn Johnson

A small but mighty group of play readers gathered to read *Dead Ringer*, a 1983 British maybe-comedy-maybe-drama-maybe-thriller written by Charles Ross. It wasn't Pulitzer Prize-worthy, but we enjoyed the clever plot. The Prime Minister dropped dead from an apparent heart attack on the eve of the General Election and two cabinet members who feared they needed his charisma to get reelected, hired an out-of-work lookalike actor to replace the de-

ceased. The dead ringer was supposed to fill in until after the election was won, but he grew to like the role. . . until he discovered that the real PM was poisoned. At that point, the characters become suspects and, as expected, secrets are revealed. I'm not sure we'd call it a comedy or a drama or a thriller, but at least *Dead Ringer* was not a deadly read. And writing this review gave me a chance to finally use the delightful word "doppelganger!"

We Open Eyes



## SIG - Book

[Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday, July 11 at 4:30 pm**  
 at the home of Sara Lynn Nusbaum  
 We will be discussing:  
***Mouth to Mouth***  
 By Antoine Wilson



### ***The Story of Beautiful Girl***

By Rachel Simon

#### **Discussion notes**

by Trish Darcy



Our June discussion for the Book Group was ***The Story of Beautiful Girl*** by Rachel Simon. We all agreed it was a wonderful story to read. It discussed the “schools” where children were put to live who had disabilities of some sort. Families who had children that somehow would not “fit in” during the last half of the 1800s and first half of the 1900s would send them away. These places did not have a reputation for caring for children well.

The story begins in 1968 when Linnie, a young white woman with a developmental disability, and Homan, an African American

deaf man, are locked away in an institution, the School for the Incurable and Feebleminded, and have been left to languish, forgotten. Linnie and Homan escape the school and head off on their own. She is pregnant. The baby is born one rainy night and they end up

leaving her with Martha, a retired school-teacher, and running from the authorities. Linnie ends up back at the school and Homan is on the run. The book follows his adventures, Linnie’s time at the facility until its closure, and the child’s growing up with Martha. We won’t give away the ending, but suffice it to say, we all liked it.

The story allowed us to have a discussion about these schools. We were shocked to learn how many there actually were and that California still has 10 such facilities. These, of course, are run much better than the one in the story. We also discussed children with special needs and the ways in which we provide for them in schools now. We all highly recommend this for someone looking for a great story!



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Leadership Team: 2023-2024

<a href="#">Trish Darcy</a>	President
<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>	Finance
<a href="#">Bonnie Little</a>	Co-Membership
<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>	Co-Membership
<a href="#">Becky Mock</a>	Recording Secretary
<a href="#">Liz Darcy</a>	Team Member
<a href="#">Anne Dolchanczyk</a>	Team Member
<a href="#">Kim Monson</a>	Team Member
<a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a>	Team Member

Project Chairs/Coordinators

Back Pack Project	<a href="#">Kim Monson</a> & <a href="#">Rebecca Swisher</a>
Fundraising	<a href="#">Sandi Gabe</a>
Good Will Ambassador	<a href="#">Anne Dolchanczyk</a>
Newsletter Editor	<a href="#">Jill Rowney</a>
Publicity	<a href="#">open</a>
Social Media	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>
Tech Connect	<a href="#">Kim Monson</a> & <a href="#">Rebecca Swisher</a>
Tech Trek	<a href="#">Trish Darcy</a> & <a href="#">Barbara Silva</a>
Website	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>
Yardsale	<a href="#">Bonnie Little</a> & <a href="#">Micki Finney</a>

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



**On these warmer summer days, remember the late snows we had....**

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