



Poison Oak  
*Toxicodendron diversilobum*



Tarweed  
*Holocarpa heermannii*

## Sierra Outpost

# AAUW California targets areas of concern— in our own back yard!

—Trish Darcy

Fall is here! A time for fires in the fireplace, stacking wood in the woodshed, savoring warm drinks, and wearing cozy sweaters. It is also the time that our schedules begin to clear up from the busyness of the summer activities and we have more time for AAUW activities. We have several for you to attend. Look through this newsletter for information on *Coffee and Convos* and *Tech Trek*.

There is much going on at AAUW California thanks to our amazing president, Sandi Gabe, and her “partner in crime,” Dawn Johnson, and we hope to make you aware of items as they come up. One project that is new, and seemingly very important, is the *School Board*

*Project*. It focuses on book banning and curriculum censorship in California. You may think that this would not happen in California, but it is already going on! There was a webinar held on September 21st. This discussed what is happening and why the *School Board Project* has been developed. It gave ideas of what we can do. Most importantly, it discussed appropriate and respectful ways to handle situations at our local level school board to benefit matters instead of stirring things up. This is something we want to keep our eye on for our own school district. Click [here](#) to watch the recording if you did not get a chance to attend the webinar.

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We will keep you informed of activity from AAUW California through a monthly email. The Leadership Team gets an email each month called *Board to Board*. This contains news

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# Leadership Team

*(Continued from page 1)*

from each of the different committees at the state level. Some of it is only for the Leadership Team, but there are times when it is important information for members to have as well. I will be taking these items and condensing them as best as I can and putting them in an email to you all. I will highlight the major points. The point is not for you to necessarily read the whole email (but be my guest!), but



## Mariposa Native Plants

[www.MariposaNativePlants.com](http://www.MariposaNativePlants.com)  
[MariposaNativePlants@gmail.com](mailto:MariposaNativePlants@gmail.com)  
 209-742-1540     Ron & Beverley

*See our website for plant availability*

to skim and see which committees interest you, see what they are up to, and possibly what you can do to help. I think you will be surprised at how many different committees there are and just how much work is being done. They are always there to support our branches and do so much to set the groundwork for us. I know many of us don't pay attention to emails, but this monthly one might be of interest to you, or at least parts of it.



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# Events Calendar



## 2023

- Oct 2            **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:15pm, Mariposa County Library
- Oct 10          **SIG—Book Group:** 4:30pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum
- Oct 14          **SIG—Hiking Group:** Details tbd
- Oct 15          **Event—Ice Cream Social/Tech Trek:** 2:00pm, Gold Cup Creamery
- Oct 26          **SIG—International Study:** 5:15pm, home of Nancy Martin
- Nov 4            **Holiday Shopping:** Save the date!
- Nov 6            **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:15pm, Mariposa County Library
- Nov 15          **Cocktails and Convos:** 5:00pm, The Alley
- Nov 28          **SIG—International Study:** 5:15pm, home of Peggy Shainberg
- Dec 3            **SIG-Wine:** Afternoon, time tbd, home of Jaye Howes
- Dec 10          **Holiday Gathering:** Save the date!

## 2024

- May 18          **Fundraiser: “Mad Hatter”**

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# Membership



## “Coffee and Convos” is back!

—Trish Darcy

By the time you read this, our first *Coffee and Convos* will have taken place on Saturday, September 30th at 10 am at Pony Espresso. Members come by, get a drink (and maybe a little snack), and join the group. Anyone who has a topic to discuss can write it on a slip of paper and put it into the jar. We’ll draw them out one at a

time to discuss. When the conversation winds down, we can draw another one. You might be asking what topics might be chosen. Literally anything! World, National, state or local topics. It could be anything from Ukraine to the possibility of a Starbucks in Mariposa, the best hiking trails to climate change, to, well, you get the idea. We are looking forward to these informal ways to get together! **Next up is “Cocktails and Convos” at the Alley on November 15th at 5:00pm.**

## Fall gathering a success

—Trish Darcy

We had a wonderful turnout for our fall gathering at The Alley last month. It was great to see so many faces! Our program began with Cheryl Berg who coordinates the tutoring program at our library. She shared what the program was all about and was hoping to drum up



Cheryl Berg, tutoring program coordinator

some volunteers. Anyone up for it? Next, we quickly and easily approved our budget for this year. Lastly, Kim Monson shared information about some wording our school board is proposing to remove from the curriculum. This prompted Dawn Johnson to tell us about *The School Board Project* and how to get involved. After that, we just enjoyed each others’ company along with drinks, pizza, and brownies. Thanks to everyone who came out to join us!



Veronica Gross wins the raffle



Those pizzas didn’t last long!





## Project: Tech Trek



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

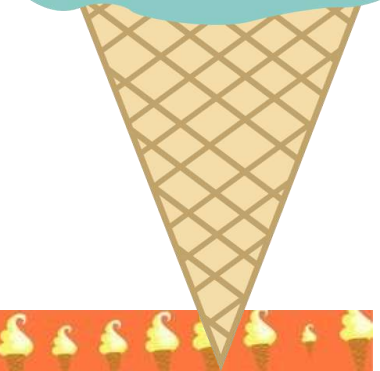
### Tech Trekkers share their experience

We will also have a gathering on **Sunday, October 15th** to hear our Tech Trek girls talk about their experience at camp last summer. This will be held at Gold Cup Creamery [4996A 7th Street](#). Come at **2:00 pm** and grab yourself a yummy ice cream treat, then join us outside to hear from the girls. They will share the best and the worst parts. (Really? Were there any bad parts?) They will share the best food they had in the cafeteria and the worst food they

had. (Okay, I can see how there could have been a “worst” in that arena!) They will also share what they learned from camp and I’m sure their excitement will shine through. I have spoken to a couple of them already and was happy to hear all good things! We hope to see many of you at this event. Tech Trek is one of our major projects and a good chunk of our money pays for these girls to attend. It is always good to see what your money is doing!

**Sunday  
October 21  
2:00 pm**

**Gold Cup Creamery**



**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 Send Girls to Science/Math Camp**



## Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



### Spotlight on Kathy Sutherland

—Kim Monson

Those of us who have attended

Sandi's fundraising events or even some of our smaller gatherings have savored Kathy Sutherland's wonderful baked goods. She's obviously the mistress of the oven, but what else do you know about Kathy? To my surprise, Kathy Sutherland is a farm girl!

Kathy was born and raised on a farm in the middle of Iowa about 60 miles north of Des Moines. They raised corn and soybeans. Kathy was number six out of ten kids. Oh, my goodness, I can't even imagine being pregnant 10 times. Her poor mom! Anyway, Kathy remembers fondly that everyone had a job; everyone was part of a team. Her summers were spent walking along the rows of plants pulling weeds to be sure that the machines only harvested corn or soybeans. It was tough work, but it was satisfying. Kathy feels fortunate to have been born in the middle of the pack. She had older siblings to show her the way and younger siblings who gave her the satisfaction of passing it on. The farm is still in the family and Kathy and Glen go back roughly

five times a year to visit.

All of Kathy's siblings went to college and she feels grateful to the older siblings for breaking the parents into all sorts of ideas. By the time Kathy was ready to attend the University of Iowa, it was just assumed that she would go. She majored in history and social work and worked for a time as a social worker. She also met Glen in college and when he finished his master's degree in accounting, he got a job offer from one of the "Big 3" accounting firms. That job brought them to the Bay Area where they lived for eight years.

In 1982 Glen was offered the chief financial officer position by Yosemite Bank which prompted their move to Mariposa. Kathy and Glen love Yosemite National Park and country life and appreciate the opportunity to have been able to raise their three children here. Their kids, Sarah, Julie, and Andrew, are all currently in their 40's with kids of their own.

Surprisingly, Kathy started a mid-life career as a flight attendant. She says there were places in the world she wanted to visit, and a



flight attendant friend told her that United was hiring mature people who were calmer with "situations." So, Kathy worked for United for 10 years so she would have flight benefits after she retired. What a benefit! Kathy and Glen are on their way to Hawaii as I write this and in February they plan to visit Australia and New Zealand.

I asked Kathy how she developed her wonderful baking skills. She credits her mom. Apparently, there was dessert on their table after every dinner. With a family of twelve, daily baking was part of life. They worked so hard on the farm, that Kathy speculates that those calories were needed to avoid twelve sets of skin and bones. Always a silver lining.

We Sponsor Community Forums

## Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



### Member Corner: Idea exchange

—Bonnie Little

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

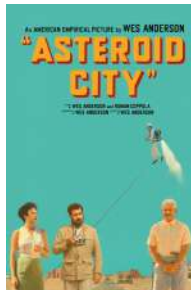


For a great activity, Jody Sergienko recommends **Sierra Art Trails**, being held over two weekends, September 29 to October 1 and October 6 to October 8. Catalogs which serve as your ticket cost \$20 and cover admission for two adults to all tour locations and directions to each locale. Catalogs may be purchased online or in Mariposa at the Visitors Center, Chocolate Soup, or Casto Oaks. (Spoiler alert— Veronica Gross has opened her studio!) Two other branch members are participating this year: Jeanne MacDonald and Saralynn Nusbaum.



Jody also recommends **The Paris Murders** on Amazon. It is the story of Chloe Saint-Laurent who is a profiler and works with a police team to solve murders in Paris. It is in French with subtitles.

Another suggestion is **Asteroid City** on Amazon, Peacock, and other streaming services. This movie follows the author of a world-famous fictional play about a grieving father who travels with his tech obsessed



family to rural Asteroid City to compete in a junior stargazing event, only to have his view of the world disrupted forever.

On Netflix, **Virgin River** is a series about life in a small, idyllic community that focuses on the lives of the people who live there. The series is based on a bestselling 21-novel series written by Robyn Carr and there are currently five seasons.



Bonnie's recommendation is **The Good Nurse** on Netflix. It is a true story of a nurse named Charles Cullen, a real life serial killer who is believed to have killed nearly 400 people during his 16-year career as a nurse. The performances by Jessica Chastain and Eddie Redmayne are very powerful. There is also a companion piece on Netflix that is a documentary about the actual events and the woman who helped expose Cullen. The movie follows the actual events very closely.

Thank you Jody for the recommendations. She also suggested a book which will be in next month's Member Corner.

AAUW members, please email me anytime that you have ideas to share with our group. We all have so much to share!  
[mbmslitttle@sti.net](mailto:mbmslitttle@sti.net)

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 monthly.

### Book Group Saralynn Nusbaum



This group meets monthly to discuss both fiction and non-fiction books members chose to read the previous month.

### 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 Becky Mock



The hiking group meets monthly to enjoy each other’s company while hiking new trails in and around Mariposa and Yosemite.



**Does something else tweak your interest? Consider coordinating a new SIG!**

### Wine Tasting Anne Dolchanczyk



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: International Study

Veronica Gross

# Pre-Columbian civilizations in Oaxaca, Mexico

—Jill Rowney

The International Study Group's September meeting was at the home of Veronica Gross. There, Jill Rowney gave a Power Point presentation on the several civilizations that occupied the Oaxacan valley before 1500 CE. It was interesting to note that the

geography of the region helped to keep the individual civilizations isolated from one another—especially in BCE. Even so, their architecture, art, religion, and scientific accomplishments are remarkably similar.



Double chambered vessel—Zapotec



## SIG: Play Reading

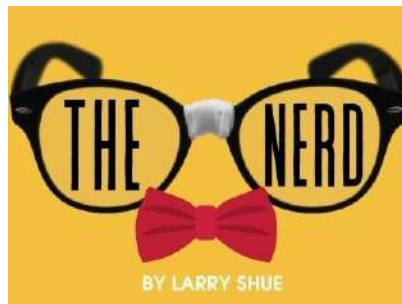
Contact Dawn Johnson

### *The Nerd*

—Dawn Johnson

## We laughed until we almost you-know-what

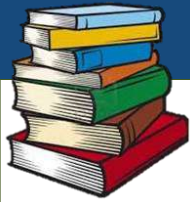
Several play group members spent a hysterical morning reading the comedy *The Nerd* by Larry Shue. The plot centered on an affable architect, Willum, whose life was saved in Vietnam many years before by a soldier he never met. That soldier, Rick Steadman, shows up on his doorstep unexpectedly and hilarity ensues. Rick is a hopeless, socially inept nerd who wants to play party games like throwing people's socks out the window



while they're wearing paper bags on their heads. Guess you had to be there. Willum and his friends concoct a plan to entice Rick to leave. It involves a dinner party with warm water and cottage cheese and performing pagan rituals to prevent them from turning into pigs at midnight. You definitely had to be there (or at least, read about being there). Does Rick leave? The delightful ending surprised us all.

We Value Education



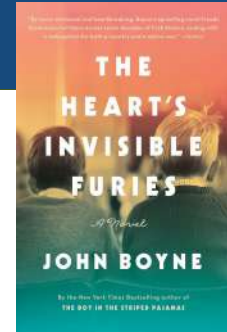


### SIG - Book

[Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 10, at 4:30 pm\*** at the home of Sara Lynn Nusbaum  
We will be discussing:

***The Heart's Invisible Furies***  
By John Boyne



\*Due to the length of the book, we will meet the 2nd Tuesday instead of the first.

### ***Bittersweet***

By Colleen McCullough

### **Discussion notes**

by Rick Uebner



The AAUW Book SIG met at Saralynn's. The eight of us there had a lively discussion of Colleen McCullough's ***Bittersweet*** (she also wrote ***The Thornbirds***). The story is set in southeastern Australia in the 1920s and 30s. Two sets of identical twins (sisters) enter health field positions at a time when

female brilliance is underrated and unappreciated. The book follows their lives and sees them developing professional identities as well as love interests. It is all complicated by the arrival of the Great Depression, which hit Australia as hard as anywhere else.

There was general agreement that, although the book started off a little slow, there was solid character development and we would recommend it to other readers.



### SIG: **Hiking**

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

The Hiking group is planning to hit the trails on October 14 (the day of the annular eclipse!). There the group can tune its plans— good places to go, volunteers to lead, etc. They are planning for meeting for hikes every second Saturday of the month. Call or email Becky for more details.



### SIG: **Wine**

Contact [Anne Dolchanczyk](#)

The wine group is in the planning phase. Jaye Howes has offered to host a gathering/tasting on the afternoon of December 3. More details will come. Anne is looking for more members to volunteer. This time of year is always very busy, but there's all of next year's calendar to fill!! Cheers!



We Inspire Life-Long Learning



AAUW - Mariposa Branch  
**Leadership Team Planning Meeting Minutes**

August 7, 2023

Mariposa Library

4:15 pm

**Members:**

- Dina Lambert, Finance Officer/Co-Membership
- Bonnie Little, Co-Membership
- Becky Mock, Recording Secretary
- Trish Darcy, President/Tech Trek
- Kim Monson, Member at Large
- Jody Sergienko, Member at Large
- Liz Darcy, Member at Large
- Anne Dolchanczyk, Member at Large

**Meeting Called to Order:** *(Trish Darcy)* 4:13 pm

**Minutes** *(Becky Mock)*

August 7th Meeting minutes were approved online

**Membership Update** *(Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little)*

- Directories are completed
- Will be distributed at the September 13 get-together at the Alley

**Finance Report** *(Dina Lambert)*

- Income: \$1,282.00; Expenses: \$996.00; Ending Balance: \$5,212.38
- Trish moved to approve, Jody seconded everyone vote aye

**Standing Projects:**

- Backpack *(Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher)*
  - Was a huge success
  - 60 distributed and MCHS
  - 12 Distributed in Coulterville
- Tech Trek *(Trish Darcy)*
  - No updates
- Tech Connect *(Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher)*

*(Continued on page 11)*

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

(Continued from page 10)

- Creating a sign to put on campus
- Will be contacting the counselor's office to get a new staff contact
- Current topic (may be reworded): "What does a new person need to know when moving to Mariposa?"

### **Fundraisers:**

- Yard Sale -Oct. 2024
- Mad Hatter-May 18, 2024

### **Programs:**

- Homeowner's Insurance
  - Jody spoke with Alison Tudor (Alliance) and she is very excited about this topic
  - Set date for January 18, 2024
  - Set time for 5:15 pm
  - Want to use Supervisor's Chambers
  - Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir in Yosemite
  - Schedule for March
  - Bonnie will contact who????
  - Shelton Johnson and Dick Ewart
  - Trish will contact
  - Schedule for April

### **Old Business:**

- Fall Gathering: The Alley, Sept. 13th @ 4:00, Cheryl Berg-tutoring program
- Bylaws Committee: Jody, Becky, Trish
  - State is updating bylaws and handbook
  - Will wait for this to be completed
- Fall Fundraiser idea-We need one!
  - The chapter needs \$3000 by March to fund sending girls to Tech Trek
  - Decided to solicit donations from local businesses
  - ✦ Trish will create a request letter
  - ✦ Possible companies to ask
  - ✦ Chukchansi, Aramark, Tavis, Sierra Tel, Suburban
- Stem Club at MCHS/Online STEMED program from AAUW
  - Decided this will not work, but will work with Amanda Mellow, the new teacher, to get girls to participate in AAUW's Stem Ed free online program.

(Continued on page 12)

We Sponsor Community Forums

(Continued from page 11)

**Programs for this year:**

- Sept.-Fall Gathering
- Oct.-Ice Cream Social/Tech Trek-Gold Cup Creamery Sunday, Oct. 15th at 2:00
- Nov.-Holiday Shopping-Saturday, Nov. 4th
- Dec.-Holiday Party-Sunday, December 10th
- Jan.-Homeowner's Insurance
- Feb.-Sweethearts Line Dancing
- Mar.-Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir in Yosemite
- Apr.-Shelton Johnson and Deck Ewart-Yosemite History
- May-Cinco de Mayo at The Grove House
- June-Annual Meeting
- July-Movie in Oakhurst
- Any other ideas?

**New Business:**

- Coffee and Convos-Sept. 30th Pony Espresso 10:00
  - Cocktails and Convos-Wednesday, Nov. 15th The Alley 5:00
  - School Board Project
    - Trish introduced the the program that the State AAUW Policy team is addressing about potential local school boards efforts that to ban books or "cleanse" curricula
    - The state is having a webinar on Sept. 21 that will share how to get involved in preventing such activities. The webinar will be recorded for later viewing.
    - Mariposa County Community survey results
    - Will provide dates of community meetings to present results in an email to members and will post on Facebook
    - AAUW Brochures
- Bonnie will look into getting updated brochures

**Member Profile:** *(Kim Monson)*

Kim will do one this month

**Branch Buzz:**

Liz will send this out

**Action Items:**

Bonnie will order current AAUW Brochures

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



AAUW- Mariposa:  
[www.aauwmariposa.com](http://www.aauwmariposa.com)  
 Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa>  
 Instagram:  
 AAUW\_Mariposa

Leadership Team: 2023-2024

<a href="#">Trish Darcy</a>	President	Back Pack Project	<a href="#">Kim Monson &amp; Rebecca Swisher</a>
<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>	Finance	Fundraising	<a href="#">Sandi Gabe</a>
<a href="#">Bonnie Little</a>	Co-Membership	Good Will Ambassador	<a href="#">Anne Dolchanczyk</a>
<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>	Co-Membership	Newsletter Editor	<a href="#">Jill Rowney</a>
<a href="#">Becky Mock</a>	Recording Secretary	Publicity	<a href="#">open</a>
<a href="#">Liz Darcy</a>	Team Member	Social Media	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>
<a href="#">Anne Dolchanczyk</a>	Team Member	Tech Connect	<a href="#">Kim Monson &amp; Rebecca Swisher</a>
<a href="#">Kim Monson</a>	Team Member	Tech Trek	<a href="#">Trish Darcy &amp; Barbara Silva</a>
<a href="#">Jody Sergienko</a>	Team Member	Website	<a href="#">Dina Lambert</a>
		Yardsale	<a href="#">Bonnie Little &amp; Micki Finney</a>

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



Poison Oak  
*Toxicodendron diversilobum*

Have you taken especially nice photos of plants that you would like to share? Send them my way and I will be glad to include them in a forthcoming issue. I am especially interested in native plants (such as the photo of poison oak to the left and on the front page). It is such nasty stuff but is a gorgeous mixture of red, orange, yellow, and green.

You might also note that on the front page, the photo of Yosemite is changed with the seasons, and it is flanked by photos of native plants (what is currently in bloom).



Tarweed  
*Holocarpa heermannii*

We Open Eyes