



Pacific dogwood
Cornus nuttallii



Mountain maple
Acer spicatum

Sierra Outpost

The many ways AAUW California supports our local branch

Do you remember back to when you made the decision to join AAUW? For some of you that wasn't too long ago and for others it was way back when dirt was new (just kidding)! There is a smattering of us in the middle of those two extremes as well. Did you join to be a part of a group of like-minded people or was it to do fun activities with friends? Was it to help out with our worthwhile community projects or maybe it was to support an organization that works to support women in leadership roles and work for equity for women?

Whatever your reason for joining, we are glad you are here! We are pretty sure the reasons for joining are as varied

—Trish Darcy

as our members. We do have worthwhile projects that benefit our community:

- The Backpack Project puts backpacks filled with school supplies into the hands of middle school students in our county.
- Tech Trek sends girls to a week-long STEM camp at Fresno State each summer.
- Our Tech Connect Project provides students an opportunity to be creative and produce a video on a specific topic and compete for prize money!
- We have SIGs for all interests: wine, books, hiking, gardening, international studies and play reading. These SIGs alone could be enough to keep

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our members busy. But wait! There's more!

What we sometimes forget is that there are larger AAUW organizations that are working to support our

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Leadership Team

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Mariposa branch as well. So what might these supports be, you ask? The following are just some of the committees at the state level and are there to support our branch. We just wanted to take the time to introduce them to you.

- Branch Development—this committee provides webinars and support for growing our branch membership, retaining members, and training new members of our team.
- Communications— they take care of all things communication-wise. They send out the *California Connection* each month to keep you informed and just recently created a new LinkedIn Community Page for us!
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion—this group works to make us aware of the need for DEI and ways to make it happen in our branches.
- Public Policy—this is the group that has started up the School Board Project to help members keep an eye on their local school board. You may not think this would concern us in Mariposa, but controversial topics are beginning to make their way into the board agendas.

- Gov Trek—this is a program girls can participate in to gain leadership skills in the area of government. This is a great way to get women into leadership roles in our local, state, and national governments.
- Tech Trek—this is the committee that runs all Tech Trek camps statewide. There is a TON of work that goes on behind the scenes to pull off multiple in-person camps and a virtual camp each summer.

We may not always see these committees and what they do for us, but they are there working hard. And, mind you, these are not all of them! Each committee holds peer group webinars each month to plan, educate, answer questions, and basically makes us feel supported. Those of us on the Leadership Team are thankful for their work and wanted to make sure you knew what all these committees were doing.

As a bonus, if any of these sound interesting to you, let me know and I can get you going with the webinars and any other information or support you may need. You don't have to take on a huge task, just any small part helps.

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!

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Leadership Team



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See our website for plant availability

Events Calendar

2023

- Nov 4 **Holiday Shopping:** 11:00am, Mariposa Arts Park
- Nov 6 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:15pm, Mariposa County Library
- Nov 7 **SIG—Book Group:** 4:30pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum
- Nov 11 **SIG—Hiking Group:** Details tbd
- Nov 15 **Cocktails and Convos:** 5:00pm, The Grove House
- Nov 21 **SIG—International Study:** 5:15pm, home of Peggy Shainberg
- Dec 3 **SIG-Wine:** 3:30pm, home of Jaye Howes
- Dec 10 **Holiday Gathering:** 2:00pm, home of Veronica Gross



2024

- May 18 **Fundraiser: “Mad Hatter:”** Mariposa County Fairgrounds

Membership



“Cocktails and Convos” to return November 15

—Trish Darcy

We had a good turnout for Coffee and Convos last month. This month we will be meeting in the evening for Cocktails and Convos. Join us on **November 15th** at The Grove House.

We will again ask you to write a topic or two on a slip of paper. We’ll draw these out one at a time to discuss. We had lively discussions last time and look forward to more in November. Mark your calendar!

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Membership

Preparing for the holiday season

—Trish Darcy

It is never too early to start your holiday shopping, right? Our local businesses are starting their holiday season this weekend. Join us at 11:00 on Saturday, November 4th. We will meet at the Arts Park for a group photo and then start shopping. We'll plan a time and place to meet for lunch and then people can continue shopping for as long as they wish. We did this last year and it was a blast! Please join us, even if it is only for a short time. The local businesses have great deals that weekend, so it is worth getting out there and supporting them while crossing items off of your list.

Holiday Shopping
Downtown Mariposa
Saturday
November 4
11:00am
Meet at the Arts Park

It's PARTY Time!

Our annual Holiday Gathering will be held this year on Sunday, December 10th at 2:00pm at the home of Veronica Gross. (Do I see you adding it to your calendar right now?) More details will be forthcoming as we finalize plans with her. Watch your email for an Evite with all of the details!



We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



Project: Tech Trek

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Tech Trekkers share their experiences



—Trish Darcy

Sunday, October 15th, we spent some time listening to our campers from last summer talk about their Tech Trek experience. Everyone got an ice cream treat and headed to the back deck for perfect weather to listen to the girls.

Most of the girls were excited about their experience. Only one showed trepidation if asked whether she would go again if given the chance. Then she went on to explain that it is only because she likes to stay home, not because she didn't like camp. Every year, these girls share that they have made lasting friendships; some with their roommate and some with other girls. This camp has a way of doing that. These girls form lifetime bonds. We even have a past Tech Trekker in her second year of college planning a get-together with someone she met at camp! All the girls agreed the food was pretty good, but all in all, it was the activities they enjoyed most. They all said this made them want to go to college after high school.

As a special treat, we heard from Annie Bryant. She was selected for camp in 2020 and we all know how that turned out! In 2021 she was able to attend the virtual camp



since no in-person camps were being offered. This year she was old enough to be a peer counselor and finally got the chance to attend an in-person camp! She really enjoyed the experience and will do it again if it works out. Different from her hands-on work as a counselor at Day Camp, she was taught to stand back and watch TT girls work through things at camp. She enjoyed watching their learning.

It was so nice to enjoy the nice weather and listen to this fantastic group of girls share their experiences. They made us proud that they represented Mariposa at camp. We raise a lot of money each year to support this program and it is good to see that it is money well spent!

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We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



Member Corner: Idea exchange

—Bonnie Little

Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining

Jill Harry recommends a podcast

On With Kara Swisher.

This podcast covers many broad based topics and is an update from a previous podcast which was more tech-based. Two podcasts that Jill especially enjoyed were “Christiane



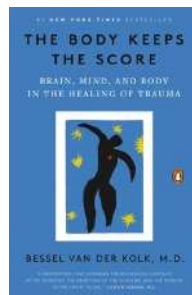
Amanpour on Covering This War” and “What Naomi Klein Found Down the Steve Bannon Rabbit Hole.” The podcast is advertised as “getting to the heart of what makes powerful people tick.” There is a backlog of interesting interviews to experience.



Jill also encourages listening to KQED’s ***Political Breakdown***. New episodes broadcast every Thursday and the commentators are Scott Shafer and Marisa Lagos. They talk about the

week in California politics with interviews featuring politicians and other insiders. KQED originates from the San Francisco Bay Area and is a great way to keep up with what is going on in CA government.

Jody Sergienko recommends a powerful book titled ***The Body Keeps the Score; Brain, Mind and Body in the Healing of Trauma***. The author is Bessel Vander Kolk. The book provides a wealth of information about different types



of trauma and how the body processes these experiences. Individual experiences are discussed which help readers gain insight into how people might be affected and possible outcomes and solutions.

Trish Darcy watched ***A Small Light*** on National Geographic, a limited series worth watch-



ing. It may be streamed on Hulu. The story is about Anne Frank, who was hidden from the Nazi occupation along with her family for 761 days. The family was helped by the everyday courage of people who, when asked to choose between their own safety and doing the right thing, chose the latter. The series examines the role of Miep Gies (played by Bel Powley), who was a friend and secretary to Otto Frank’s father. Otto Frank is played by Liev Schreiber. Gies, along with other employees and friends, helped hide the family from the Nazis for more than two years, enduring many risks along the way. It is an amazing tale of courage, sacrifice, and the ability to endure.

Bonnie’s note: We traveled to Amsterdam and wished to tour the Anne Frank house, however the tours were completely sold out. We learned that reservations should be made as far in advance as possible to secure a ticket.

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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 Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



SIG: Book

Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, November 7, at 4:30 pm
 at the home of Sara Lynn Nusbaum
 We will be discussing:
West With Giraffes
 By Lynda Rutledge



SIG: International Study

Contact [Veronica Gross](#)

Benito Juarez, celebrated native Oxacan

The International Study Group met on October 26th at the home of Nancy Martin. There, the group discussed the celebrated Oxacan leader, Benito Juarez, and the role he played in the history of Mexico. Thanks

to Peggy Shainberg who led the discussion. They also had an amazing array of hors'd'oeuvres to enjoy along with the spectacular views from the top of Mt. Bullion.

—Jill Rowney



SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

Broadway isn't the only place with flops

The Play Reading Group skipped its October play, a 1916 who-dun-it with dated language, dense dialogue, and 21 characters' parts to read.

We'll freeze our baked treats for next month and hope for something better.

—Dawn Johnson



SIG: Hiking

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

The Hiking group is planning to hit the trails on November 11. 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 December 3 at 3:30pm. 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 Open Eyes



AAUW - Mariposa Branch
Leadership Team Planning Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2023

Mariposa Library

4:15 pm

Members:

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

The Meeting was called to order at 4:24 pm

Minutes (*Trish Darcy*):

- Approval of September 11th Meeting minutes was previously completed by email.

Membership Update (*Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little*)

- No update

Finance Report (*Dina Lambert*)

- Income: \$583.54; Expenses: \$404.74; Ending Balance: \$5,839.00
- Finance report approved, Trish moved, Kim seconded, AYES: everyone

Standing Projects:

- Backpack (*Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*)
 - Completed
- Tech Trek (*Trish Darcy*)
 - No update at this time
- Tech Connect (*Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*)
 - Kim is working with Jeannie Tyrrell
 - Provided her with copies of application
 - Provided her with a sign

Fundraisers:

- Yard Sale -Oct. 2024
- Mad Hatter-May 18, 2024
 - Letter requesting donations
 - Trish has composed a letter to send out to potential business donors.
 - VFW was a suggestion to add to the list of potential donors

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Programs:

- Homeowner's Insurance
 - No update
- Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir in Yosemite-March
 - Bonnie reached out to Debbie Carter who would love to do this presentation
 - A Sunday afternoon was suggested
 - Board of Supervisors room was suggested.
- Shelton Johnson and Dick Ewart-April
 - Trish has reached out to Dick Ewart and has not heard back
 - She will reach out to Shelton Johnson

Old Business:

- Bylaws Committee: Jody, Becky, Trish
 - Decided not to wait on state bylaws updating since those have been going on for 5 years
 - Trish, Jody and Becky will arrange to meet for Bylaws updating
- Fall Fundraiser idea-Discussion of letter
- Online STEMEd program from AAUW
 - Have not heard back from new biology teacher
 - Trish will follow up
- Coffee and Convos-Sept. 30th Pony Espresso 10:00
 - Well attended, but noisy location making hearing difficult
- Cocktails and Convos-Wednesday, Nov. 15th The Grove House 5:00
 - AAUW Brochures
 - Bonnie will look into obtaining brochures

Programs for this year:

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

Will be at Veronica Gross' home

Donations will be made to Mountain Crisis

Need to create a list of what types of donations should be given

Jan.-Homeowner's Insurance

Jan.-Candidate's Forum

Feb.-Sweethearts Line Dancing

Mar.-Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir in Yosemite

Apr.-Shelton Johnson and Dock Ewart-Yosemite History

May-Cinco de Mayo at The Grove House

June-Annual Meeting

July-Movie in Oakhurst

Any other ideas?

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New Business:

We should have a Candidate's Forum-late January

Member Profile: (Kim Monson)

Kim did a really nice job with Kathy Sutherland's profile

Branch Buzz:

Trish will send out Branch Buzz since Liz is traveling

Action Items:

- Bonnie will work on getting AAUW brochures
- Trish will set up Bylaws meeting
- Trish will send out donation request letter
- Trish will contact new science teacher about STEM program
- Trish will check to see if The Alley has heaters
- Kim will take the lead on candidate forum

Upcoming Dates:

- Tech Trek girls presenting at Gold Cup Creamery Oct. 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.
- Next meeting at Mariposa Library, Nov. 6, 2023 at 4:15 p.m.
- Cocktails and Convos Nov. 15, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

AAUW- Mariposa:
www.aauwmariposa.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa>

Instagram:

AAUW_Mariposa

Leadership Team: 2023-2024

Trish Darcy	President
Dina Lambert	Finance
Bonnie Little	Co-Membership
Dina Lambert	Co-Membership
Becky Mock	Recording Secretary
Liz Darcy	Team Member
Anne Dolchanczyk	Team Member
Kim Monson	Team Member
Jody Sergienko	Team Member

Project Chairs/Coordinators

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

AAUW <https://aauw.org/>

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

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp