



Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia



Sierra Outpost

'Tis the season for a bit of kindness

—Trish Darcy

The holiday season is somehow upon us again this year. It can be such a joyous time, but for many it is a difficult time. This is a good reminder for me, as I am one who embraces the holidays fully! My mom is my reminder that this can be a hard time for others. She lost her mother just after Christmas years ago, but was always careful to make it a special time for my sister and me. Being aware of and recognizing others' feelings during the season not only will make them feel good, but it will make you feel good to know that you made someone's day better.

On the next page of this newsletter, you will see a calendar of some actions you

can take to make someone's day a bit brighter. Try a few to see how they go, or make up one of your own and try it.

Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, I have been spending many days this month with my mom in a skilled nursing facility. She has had dementia for several years and recently fell and broke her pelvis. She is recovering, but the trauma of it all has sent her dementia through the roof. During these days, I have been fortunate to meet so many people from all around the world who are here caring for Mom: Armenia, Russia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Iran, Mexico, China, Japan, Persia, and the list goes on. Each person I meet has

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been so kind and caring to my mom. I have taken the time to learn so many new names and talk to them about their lives. What stories they have to tell! Today I met a Nigerian woman who ran the 100m in the Sydney

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Leadership Team

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Olympics! I feel fortunate to have met each and every one and to have them care for my mom.

Speaking of recognizing, remember that there are many other holidays from other religions and also non-religious holidays during this season. When we say “Happy Holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas,” we are not starting a “war on Christmas,” we are just recognizing that the person we are speaking to may celebrate another holiday. It is okay to say

“Merry Christmas” and it is okay to say “Happy Holidays!”

This may have been a bit personal of an article this month, but I have had lots of time to reflect. I have decided that I will relax more this season. Enjoy more this season. Respect more this season. Give more this season. I will not stress myself out to make the “perfect” holiday for my family. I hope you can take some time for yourself and relax, breathe, and appreciate the time.

Kindness is the Game and Rewards are the Gain!

Last year we shared a giving calendar. This year we’d like to share a “Kindness Calendar.” These are simple things you can try to brighten someone’s day. The “feel good” feeling will be contagious!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Leave a nice note in a library book	Give someone an 8-Second Hug	Send someone a nice note	Donate old books	Don't complain all day long	Leave a nice note on a mirror	Give a compliment
Pick up trash in your neighborhood	Be kind to a stranger	Draw a picture for someone	Bake yummy goodies for someone	SMILE at everyone you see today	Do someone else's chores for them	water plants
Feed the birds	Write a gratitude list (20 things)	Pick up trash you see on the ground	Leave an extra tip	Bring someone flowers (or draw a picture of flowers)	Recycle	Share with another person
Donate old clothes	Help an elderly person	Walk someone's (or your own) dog	Make a list of 10 things you're thankful for	Tell someone the reasons you like them	Hold the door for someone	Donate to a local animal shelter
Offer water to those in need	Help make dinner	Make a bird feeder	Donate old toys	Make someone laugh	Write positive messages on the sidewalk	write a thank you note

We Value Education

Events Calendar



2023-24

- Dec 4 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:15pm, Mariposa County Library
- Dec 3 **SIG-Wine:** 3:30pm, home of Jaye Howes
- Dec 5 **SIG—Book Group:** 4:30pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum

 **December 10** **Holiday Party: 1:00-4:00, home of Veronica Gross** 

2024

- Jan 8 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:15pm, Mariposa County Library
- Jan 2 or 9 **SIG—Book Group:** 4:30pm, home of Saralynn Nusbaum
- Jan 9 or 16 **SIG—International Study:** 5:15pm, home of Peggy Shainberg
- May 18 **Fundraiser: “Mad Hatter:”** Mariposa County Fairgrounds

Membership

Cocktails and Convos and music videos

—Trish Darcy

Those of us who gathered at The Grove House the evening of the 15th were treated to a special evening. We dispensed with our normal discussion of different topics because we got to be in Scott Patrick’s music video!

You read that right! We will be famous-well, probably not, but we did have fun! He was shooting a music video and needed extras to be the audience, so, of course, we were there to help out.



Nine of us braved the rain to come out and enjoy ourselves. We will try to have another Coffee and Convos in January-weather depending.



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Membership



It's PARTY Time!

—Bonnie Little

WHEN: DECEMBER 10

TIME: 1:00pm-4:00pm

WHERE: THE HOME OF VERONICA AND DAN GROSS

4145 SILVER BAR ROAD, MARIPOSA

It's a perfect time for a party! Veronica and Dan Gross have built a beautiful new home and have graciously offered to host our holiday party. Not only that, but they are also providing a wide variety of beverages, both alcoholic and non alcoholic. Members are asked to **bring an appetizer to share**, either a savory or sweet treat.

Spouses/partners are welcome to join in on this festive event.

It is important that we know how many will be there, so please either reply to the evite OR email Bonnie Little at mbmslittle@sti.net and I will make sure your RSVP is counted.

Hope to see many of you on December 10th!



We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

Membership

Making the season better, one donation at a time

For some, it is a very difficult time of the year.

As in years past, we wish to make the holidays easier for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We are collecting items for Mountain Crisis. You may bring an item to our holiday party and we will make sure that the items are delivered. **Please, no clothing, coats or food items.** Here is the Mountain Crisis "wish list":

- Bath towels and bath mats
- Bedding and blankets (full and twin size)
- Reusable food storage containers
- Foil, plastic wrap and Ziploc bags (gallon and quart size)

- Kleenex and toilet paper
- Cleaning supplies and disinfectant wipes
- Laundry baskets and laundry soap
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Shampoo and conditioners
- Umbrellas, mittens and raincoats
- Toddler drinking cups and plates
- Toys safe for 2 year olds
- Dollhouse furniture and play kitchen toys
- Electric mixer

MOUNTAIN CRISIS THANKS YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY!

We Sponsor Community Forums



Project: Tech Trek

California Tech Trek Treasurer Needed

—Trish Darcy

Tech Trek was what originally drew me into a leadership role with our local branch. It is near and dear to my heart.

Over the years I have discovered just what goes on behind the scenes to make these camps occur for 7th grade girls all over California. It is amazing all the positions that volunteers take care of.

With that being said, they are in search of someone who can do the books for Tech Trek California. It is all in QuickBooks now and apparently fairly straightforward. They are looking for someone to fill this volunteer position. Do you have the skills? Would you be willing to help out this valuable state project? If this is something you might be interested in or if you have questions, let me know and I will put you in contact with the right person.

Shopping downtown for the holiday season

—Anne Dolchanczyk

About ten members gathered by Chocolate Soup on November 4th to begin the season of holiday shopping. The weather was beautiful, the company was delightful, and the shopping was challenging! Patience was the

word of the day due to the long check-out lines. A group of us had a nice lunch at Sticks on their patio. This is such a fun activity, we shall plan to do it again next year. I hope you will be able to join us!



We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert



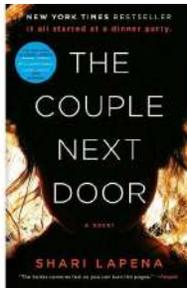
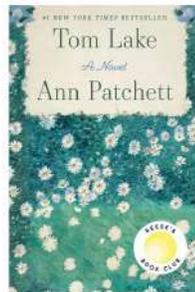
Member Corner: Idea exchange

—Bonnie Little

Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining

Happy December everyone! I'm taking over Member Corner this month with some of my own recommendations and some that friends have told me about.

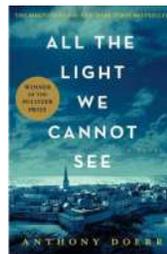
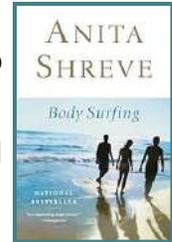
Tom Lake by Ann Patchett is a story about multi-generations, love, memories and summer stock theater. A mother relates her experiences about her acting career in her younger life and her relationship with a man who would later become a famous actor. Her three daughters were very curious about her past, and had conflicting responses to her stories. This is a beautifully written novel that goes back and forth in time as the mother shares her memories.



The Couple Next Door by Shari Lapena. This novel is about a young couple, their baby, mysterious neighbors, and a kidnapping. It is definitely a page turner! It is

being made into a movie and should be out sometime in 2024.

Body Surfing by Anita Shreve is about a 29-year-old woman who has been both divorced and widowed. As she tries to rebuild her life, she takes a job as a tutor to a teenage girl and lives with the wealthy family in a seaside home. I am only on page 75 of the book but am already interested to see how the characters are developed. I've read other books by this author and enjoy her writing style.



All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. This is a wonderfully written story about a blind girl and a boy on opposite sides of the war in WWII in France who meet unexpectedly.

It has been made into a movie and is currently on Netflix. I have not watched it yet and am always a bit cautious before I see the movie of a book that I have enjoyed. Has anyone seen it and would like to comment?

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We Open Eyes

Membership

Bonnie Little, Dina Lambert

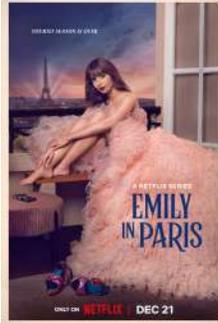


Member Corner: Idea exchange

—Bonnie Little

Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining

(Continued from page 7)



For a little fun and fluff, **Emily in Paris** is on Netflix and there are three seasons. The fashions are over the top, and the views of the city will make you want to hop on a plane and visit Paris!



The Gilded Age on Netflix is a series set in America in the 1880s. A young woman moves into the home of her aunts who have “old money” and very rich neighbors and friends. Drama ensues as the woman gets caught up in their very glamorous lives. There are currently two seasons and fans are eagerly waiting to hear if there will be a third.



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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 Value Education



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 Inspire Life-Long Learning



SIG: Book

Contact [Saralynn Nusbaum](#)

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, December 5, at 4:30 pm
 at the home of Sara Lynn Nusbaum
 We will be discussing:
Yellowface
 By R. F. Kuang

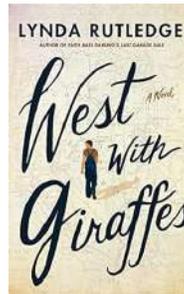


West With Giraffes

By Lynda Rutledge

Discussion notes by Dawn Johnson

We had a great discussion of Lynda Rutledge's *West with Giraffes*, the can't-put-it-down, true story of two giraffes bound for San Diego Zoo in 1938. Why write a book about that? Because truth is stranger than fiction. After weeks on a ship from Africa, the giraffes were nearly lost in the hurricane that devastated New York Harbor that year. They were fished out of the wrecked ship and transported across the country for 12 days in a jerry-rigged pickup truck. Every disaster possible befell them, from floods to theft to low tunnels. Depression-weary Americans followed their journey in the daily news and found hope in the miraculous event.



We loved the authenticity of the characters (some real and some fictional). They were fascinating and

flawed: the curmudgeonly "Old Man" with a past, the young rowdy "Woody" with an unknown future, a young female photographer with a secret, the world's first female zoo director, kind strangers, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.

We felt the story was remarkable and very well-written with delightful and realistic language. It had many layers beyond the bumpy road trip itself. It dealt with how desperate times make people do desperate things, the treatment of Blacks and women, the angst of coming of age, first love, and more.



International Study

Contact [Veronica Gross](#)

Oxacan arts to be topic of next gathering

We're on hiatus until January.. Enjoy the holidays and stay well!

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



SIG: **Play Reading**

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

California Suite was sweet

—Dawn Johnson

We only had four readers for our last play, *California Suite* by Neil Simon, but if we had had any more, the cacophony of our laughter would have roused the Sheriff's office. This funny play is actually four vignettes about guests who stayed at different times in Suite 203-204 of The Beverly Hills Hotel. The engaging characters included a fading movie star and her husband who comes out of the closet on Oscar night, a hapless businessman whose wife arrives unexpectedly to find a passed-out prostitute inexplicably in his room, a divorced pair of writers trying to figure out what to do with their

daughter for the summer, and two couples who should never have vacationed together. The dialogue was sharp and the jokes flew. So did the errant tennis balls (and accusations) the two mismatched couples lobbed at each other in an ill-fated game. We got a serious case of the giggles changing voices for the various characters. The play offered some provocative themes too, but we pretty much ignored them. All in all, a fun morning well-played by a great bunch of readers.



SIG: **Wine**

Contact [Anne Dolchanczyk](#)

Wine group enjoys an afternoon at Casto Oaks



It was a beautiful fall day at Casto Oaks to taste some lovely wine. We learned the history of the winery and the meaning behind the interesting labels. Our day ended with a walk through the vineyard. We invite any and all AAUW members to join our group. It's not too late!



We Sponsor Community Forums



AAUW - Mariposa Branch
Leadership Team Planning Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2023

Mariposa Library

4:15 pm

Members:

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

The Meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm

Minutes (*Trish Darcy*):

- October 2nd Meeting minutes were approved via email

Membership Update (*Dina Lambert, Bonnie Little*)

- 69 Paid members

Finance Report (*Dina Lambert*)

- Income: \$250.00; Expenses: \$27.75; Ending Balance: \$6061.25
- Financial Report approved: Bonnie moved, and Becky seconded, and vote was unanimous
- Dina noted we received a bill for insurance from the state for \$462.00 which she will pay. Note: we budgeted \$420.00.

Standing Projects:

- Backpack (*Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*)
Completed
- Tech Trek (*Trish Darcy*)
No Update
- Tech Connect (*Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher*)
No update

Fundraisers:

- Yard Sale -Oct. 2024
- Mad Hatter-May 18, 2024
 - Sandi Gabe held a kick-off meeting on Oct. 23
 - Kathy Sutherland will be in charge of food which will include hors d'oeuvres, sliders, salad, and dessert
 - Letter requesting donations
 - This is still being worked on

Programs:

- Homeowner's Insurance

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

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- Jody has been looking into presenters. Jeff Shaw was mentioned.
- Planned to be in January
- Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir in Yosemite-March
 - Bonnie has contacted Debbie Carter who is very excited about this
 - Planned for March
- Shelton Johnson and Dick Ewart-April
No Update

Old Business:

- Bylaws Committee: Jody, Becky, Trish
 - Draft has been completed, review ongoing
 - Does not need to be done until June
- Fall Fundraiser idea
May not need this
- Online STEMEd program from AAUW
 - Will not move forward until January
- Cocktails and Convos-Wednesday, Nov. 15th The Grove House 5:00
 - Reminder will be in Branch Buzz
- AAUW Brochures
 - Bonnie has requested from Katrina Briese and no response yet
- Tech Trek Ice Cream Social
 - Attendance was disappointing, but it was nice to hear from the girls about the experience at camp.
- Candidates' Forum-Kim
 - No update, some discussion on time needed to prep room and time for actual presentation.

Programs for this year:

- Nov.-Holiday Shopping-Saturday, Nov. 4th
Went very well, Anne will write something for the newsletter
- Dec.-Holiday Party-Sunday, December 10th
 - Will be at Veronica Gross' home
 - Decided time would be 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 - Donations will be made to Mountain Crisis
 - Need to create a list of what types of donations should be given
 - Anne will contact Kristin about what should and should not be donated
- Jan.-Homeowner's Insurance
- Jan.-Candidate's Forum
 - Kim has reserved the Supervisor's Meeting Room for Wednesday Jan. 31, 2024.
 - Time was discussed. 5:00 or 5:30 to 8:00 and what time do doors need to be opened for people to start arriving and doing any set up needed
- Feb.-Sweethearts Line Dancing
- Mar.-Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir in Yosemite

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- Needs to be at the Supervisor’s Meeting room to accommodate AV needs
- Bonnie will look into a March date
- 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?

New Business:

No new business discussed

Member Profile: (Kim Monson)

No update

Branch Buzz:

Dina will send out Branch Buzz

Action Items:

- Bonnie will send evite for Christmas party
- Anne will contact Kristin Fiester with Mountain Crisis about appropriate donations

Upcoming Dates:

- Next meeting at Mariposa Library, Monday, Dec. 4, 2023 at 4:15 p.m.
- Holiday Party, Sunday, Dec. 10, 2024, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Veronica Gross’ home

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

<p>AAUW- Mariposa: www.aauwmariposa.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa Instagram: AAUW_Mariposa</p>	<p>Project Chairs/Coordinators</p>																																						
<p>Leadership Team: 2023-2024</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Trish Darcy</td><td>President</td></tr> <tr><td>Dina Lambert</td><td>Finance</td></tr> <tr><td>Bonnie Little</td><td>Co-Membership</td></tr> <tr><td>Dina Lambert</td><td>Co-Membership</td></tr> <tr><td>Becky Mock</td><td>Recording Secretary</td></tr> <tr><td>Liz Darcy</td><td>Team Member</td></tr> <tr><td>Anne Dolchanczyk</td><td>Team Member</td></tr> <tr><td>Kim Monson</td><td>Team Member</td></tr> <tr><td>Jody Sergienko</td><td>Team Member</td></tr> </table>	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	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Back Pack Project</td><td>Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher</td></tr> <tr><td>Fundraising</td><td>Sandi Gabe</td></tr> <tr><td>Good Will Ambassador</td><td>Anne Dolchanczyk</td></tr> <tr><td>Newsletter Editor</td><td>Jill Rowney</td></tr> <tr><td>Publicity</td><td>open</td></tr> <tr><td>Social Media</td><td>Dina Lambert</td></tr> <tr><td>Tech Connect</td><td>Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher</td></tr> <tr><td>Tech Trek</td><td>Trish Darcy & Barbara Silva</td></tr> <tr><td>Website</td><td>Dina Lambert</td></tr> <tr><td>Yardsale</td><td>Bonnie Little & Micki Finney</td></tr> </table>	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
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