



Pacific dogwood
Cornus nuttallii



Aspen
Populus tremuloides

Sierra Outpost

Fall in and join the activity!

—Trish Darcy

As I sit to write this, it is the first day that has a chill to the air. The breeze is blowing the few leaves that have begun to fall. A small bit of snow is forecasted for the Tioga Pass area. How is it this time of year again? I feel like only old people talk about how time goes so fast. Hmmmm.....

This year your Leadership Team is planning some fun events! We have chosen to mix in some fun events with some educational events, because we do like to have fun! We hope you do as well and join us for some of these as they get publicized. We are working this year to be more

visible to the public by getting our organization out in the community. Please look to join us for events this year and get to know your fellow members!

We are still looking to increase our membership-as always! We have seemed to drop a bit each year since COVID (darn COVID)! One of the best ways to gain members is to encourage a friend to join. Bring them to an event. Share our website (and our newsletter!) and the state and national websites. When we ask a friend and bring them with us, they are much more likely to become active in our branch. Whom might you

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

California Connection	7
Election 2024:	
AAUW CA-Positions on State Propositions	3
Local Candidate Forum	2,6
Contact Info	13
Events Calendar	2
Leadership Team:	
Message from Trish	1
Minutes-September	12
Spam Folder Check	2
Two-minute Activist	3
Mad Hatter Auctions	5
Membership:	
Ice Cream Social	6
Member Get-together	7
Special Interest Groups:	
SIG: Book	11
SIG: Hiking	9
SIG: International Study	9
SIG: Play Reading	11
SIG: Wine	11
Tech Trek	6

know who would be interested in joining?

We will be scheduling Coffee and

(Continued on page 2)

Leadership Team

(Continued from page 1)

Convos as well as Cocktails and Convos again this year. Look for those dates to be posted. We'll do one of each in 2024 and again, in 2025. These are informal ways to get together with fellow members and discuss a wide range of topics chosen by those who attend.

The 2024-2025 year is off and running and we are looking forward to seeing lots of faces this year, old and new, at the events.




Candidate Forum
Thursday
October 3
6:00pm

Events Calendar



2024

- Oct 1 **SIG—Play Reading:** 9:30am, home of Dawn Johnson
- Oct 3 ***Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:00pm, Mariposa County Library
- Oct 3 **Candidate Forum:** 6:00pm, County Board of Supervisors' meeting room
- Oct 6 **SIG—Hiking:** Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias in Yosemite
- Oct 8 ***SIG—International Study:** 5:15pm, Home of Veronica Gross
- Oct 14 ***SIG– Book Group:** 2:00pm Home of Jaye Howes
- Nov 2 **Holiday Shopping in Mariposa**
- Nov 5**  **Election Day**
- Nov 7 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:00pm, Mariposa County Library
- Nov 10 **SIG—Hiking:** Allred Road
- Nov 11 **SIG– Book Group:** 2:00pm Home of Jaye Howes
- Nov 12 **SIG—International Study:** 5:15pm, Home of Veronica Gross

December 8 Holiday Gathering: home of Veronica Gross

*Regular day and/or time change



Not getting AAUW Mariposa emails?
Check your spam folder.

We Value Education

Leadership Team

Two-Minute Activist: an easy way to make a difference

—Trish Darcy

Do you ever think, “Gee, I could do something to help this cause that AAUW is working on?” Then you tell yourself that it is just too much of a hassle. Well, AAUW has made it easier for you. They have created The “2-minute Activist.” They will send emails with simple things you can do directly from your computer. The good part is that you can pick and choose where and when you want to lend your support.

Here is what they say:

- Join AAUW advocates in the fight for equal pay, equity in education, paid leave,

protections against sexual harassment and more. Sign up to get regular alerts on when and how to engage, including sending letters to your legislators, writing letters to the editor and other timely calls to action.

- Join AAUW advocates in the fight for equal pay, equity in education, paid leave, protections against sexual harassment, and more. Sign up to get regular alerts on when and how to engage, including sending letters to your legislators, writing letters to the editor, and other timely calls to action.
- Click [here](#) to sign up!



AAUW California looks at 2024 ballot

2024 Ballot Propositions -

Support AAUW California Public Policy Priorities:

By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-Chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

This November, California voters will decide the fate of 10 statewide ballot propositions. While we encourage members to support additional propositions that may capture the spirit of AAUW California’s Public Policy Priorities (PPPs), we suggest that four of the propositions on the ballot in 2024 deserve a YES vote from our members for their explicit alignment with AAUW California’s PPPs.

Proposition 2, Public Education Facilities Bond Measure (2024), proposes issuing \$10 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of California’s public education facilities. \$8.5 billion

would be allocated to K-12 schools and \$1.5 billion would support improvements at community colleges. [Many school facilities](#) are over 50 years old and require significant upgrades to meet current technological and education needs. [Research](#) shows that modernized school facilities correlate with better test scores, higher attendance, and improved teacher retention rates. The last time districts received state funding for infrastructure improvements was in 2016, when Prop 51 authorized \$9 billion in bonds. That money has now run out, and Prop 2 would help fund school projects totaling \$3.5 billion that have already been approved and are awaiting funding. **AAUW California supports “Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary”, and we**

(Continued on page 4)

We Inspire Lifelong Learning



To Page 1

(Continued from page 3)

support a YES vote on Proposition 2.

Proposition 3, Constitutional Right to Marriage, would amend the California Constitution to recognize the fundamental right to marry, and would remove the language banning same-sex marriage, passed by voters in 2008, from the state constitution. In practice, the ban has been nullified since a [Supreme Court ruling](#) in 2013 which allowed same-sex marriages to resume in California. Proposition 3 will enshrine the fundamental right to marry and protect against any potential future changes to federal marriage protections. **AAUW California supports “Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures”, and we support a YES vote on Proposition 3.**

Proposition 4, Parks, Environment, Energy, and Water Bond Measure, would allocate the state to issue \$10 billion in bonds to fund various environmental, energy, and water projects. While there are a range of projects that ballot measure would fund that would benefit all Californians who are confronted with the impacts of sea-level rise, extreme heat, wildfire dangers, and air/water pollution, proposition 4 would also require that 40% of the bond revenue be used to fund activities that benefit communities with lower incomes or that are affected by environmental changes or disasters. Also, as AAUW California’s Public Policy Committee has pointed out in the past, [addressing climate issues and advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability, and vice versa](#).

AAUW California supports “Social and racial justice for all members of society, including equal access to quality affordable healthcare, housing and a healthy environment,” and we support a YES vote

on Proposition 4.

Proposition 32, Raises Minimum Wage, would raise California’s current minimum wage of \$16 per hour. Employers with 26 or more employees would pay \$18 per hour beginning in 2025. Employers with 25 or fewer employees would pay \$17 per hour in 2025 and \$18 per hour in 2026. California has a high cost of living and our current \$16 minimum wage is well below the estimated living wage needed to support a household’s basic needs. Women and communities of color bear the burden of low-wage jobs. The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) [released data](#) showing that in 2021, roughly half of all Latino, Black, and Native American workers earned \$32,329 or less - \$10,000 less than the state’s per capita income. 54 percent of all workers in California earning \$32,239 or less were women. A minimum wage of \$18 will reduce income inequality and improve the standard of living for millions of California workers, especially women and people of color.

AAUW California supports “Economic Security for All Women”, and we support a YES vote on Proposition 32.

For guidance on additional ballot measures that are adjacent to, but not directly within, the scope of AAUW California’s PPPs, please see this excellent guide provided by [the League of Women Voters of California](#).



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



“Mad Hatter” Auction items

—Dawn Johnson

Auction item: Mexican Fiesta Dinner for 6

¡Ole! That’s what we were saying even BEFORE the margaritas when Dawn and Jay Johnson redeemed their Mad Hatter auction donation for a Mexican fiesta dinner for six amigos. *Señoras* Kathy Sutherland, Rosemary Caballero, and Bonnie Little hosted an incredible dinner and evening, bolstered by their long-suffering husbands who were pressed into service as bartenders, ushers, and busboys. The Johnsons, along with Sandi and Jeff Gabe and Trish and Liz Darcy, were treated to a multi-course dinner of unique foods beautifully prepared and presented. Chipotle it was not! No refried beans for this crew. Adding to the fun were the hosts and hostesses in full costume (albeit with some shirts looking suspiciously Hawaiian), a lovely setting at the Caballeros’ home and garden, a fully-themed harvest table set for 12, and GIANT festive margarita glasses. The fun was nonstop, triggered by a candies-in-the-jar guessing game dominated by the analytical Darcys, a Mexican hat dance, and the especially fun party game “Do You Remember?” at



the dinner table. Guests took turns answering cards with prompts about things they remember. Can you guess who was a track and field runner, who wore patched blue bell bottoms, who has a fondness for pineapple upside down cake, and who had a poster of David Cassidy in her room? What happens at

Mexican fiesta night stays at Mexican fiesta night.

The Johnsons plan to snag whatever dinner these three ladies cook up for our next auction. It’s rewarding to support our AAUW programs in such a fun way. And the margaritas don’t hurt.



We Sponsor Community Forums



Project: Tech Trek

Tech Trek participants share over ice cream cones

The warmer weather was a perfect time to enjoy an ice cream treat at the Creamery as we listened to our Tech Trek 2024 campers and counselors recount their experiences at the summer event.

Grace and Rio shared their camping experience. They told us about the friends they made at camp and highlighted some of their amazing experiences. Grace was happy to find out that camp was a perfect mix of STEM activities as well as fun. Rio, an aspiring architect, was pleased to find that her math class included drawing blueprints!

Annie has been a counselor for two years now and enjoys guiding the girls through the



problem-solving process to be successful in the group. Kelsea appreciated the fact that the counselors were treated with respect and given freedoms they did not expect. Juno shared that she had a rewarding experience working with a particular girl who was struggling with being at camp and helping her to become more comfortable.

AAUW Mariposa can be duly proud of these dynamic young women we sent to camp!



Mariposa Election 2024– Candidate Forum

Local candidates speak on important issues

Tuesday, November 5, is election day. With the mail-in option, we can vote any time up until that date. To be better informed, AAUW Mariposa is hosting a candidate forum on **Thursday evening of October 3 at 6:00pm**. This will be held in the Board of Supervisors’ meeting room (Mariposa County Government Center, 5100 Bullion St., Mariposa).

We are planning to host candidates running for the **5th District School Board** seat:

- Toni Southwood

- Jenni Moore

Those running for the **Hospital Board**:

- Rose Fluharty (full term)
- Suzette Prue (full term)
- Jesse Bullis (full term)
- Robert “Bob” Pickard (full term)
- Theresa Johnson (partial term)
- Joseph Rogers (partial term)

Click [here](#) for the handbook that lists the entire slate of those running for various offices in Mariposa County.

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

Fall Gathering at the Grove House



We had a lovely gathering of friends at the Grove House on September 10th. Thank you to all who attended. It was nice to see so many faces.

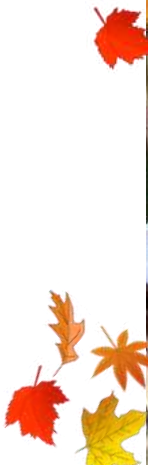


AAUW swag and other goodies. This has been delivered to her.

Our budget was approved and we enjoyed beverages and conversation. Now we are off and running into the year-financially speaking!

Beth Tomsick won the raffle and was gifted

The new directory for the year is ready. If you haven't already picked up your copy, we will have them available at the Candidates' Forum on Oct. 3rd. Mailing them has become quite costly and we are trying to save money. Come and pick up your directory and enjoy an important AAUW Mariposa event as well!



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 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 monthly.

Book Group Jaye Howes



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 Value Education



SIG: International Study

Contact [Veronica Gross](#)

Vietnam comes to the forefront



The International Study Group met on Tuesday, September 10, and selected Vietnam as its country of study for this year. Christina Oborn, having recently visited the country, will present an overview at our next meeting on October 8th at 5:15pm. If you have not signed up, but are interested in joining us, please contact Veronica (Nickel) Gross (veronica@gross.name).



SIG: Hiking

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

Hiking group schedules the year's treks

—Becky Mock

The 2024-2025 AAUW Hiking Special Interest Group met for the first time at leader Becky Mock's home on September 17. Rather than select a set day of the month to hike, the group decided to go on specific hikes on specific dates. Just a note, these hikes are not carved in stone and can be modified or changed if circumstances dictate.

The following is the schedule the group decided:

- Sunday, October 6, 2024: **Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias in Yosemite**
- Sunday, November 10, 2024: **Allred Road**
- Saturday, December 14, 2024: **Ahwahnee Hills Park**

- Saturday, January 11, 2025: **Upstream on the Merced River from Briceburg**
- Saturday, February 8, 2025: **Morning Star Road**
- Saturday, March 8, 2025: **Downstream on the Merced River from Briceburg**
- Friday, April 11, 2025: **Hite Cove**
- Saturday, May 10, 2025: **Lower Yosemite Falls trail to Valley Loop Trail to Mirror Lake Trail**

We are looking forward to having some fun and interesting hikes this year.

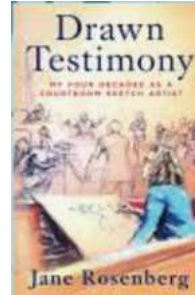
We Inspire Lifelong Learning



SIG: **Book**

Contact [Jaye Howes](#)

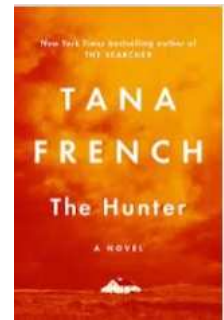
Our next meeting will be on **Monday, October 14, at 2:00 pm** at the home of Jaye Howes
We will be discussing:
Drawn Testimony
By Jane Rosenberg



Discussion notes by Rick Uebner

Our book group read ***The Hunter*** by Irish author, Tana French. The mystery is set in a rural countryside in modern-day Ireland. Characters include a retired Chicago police officer, a rebellious 15-year-old girl, and a British con man. Colorfully

written, the intrigue centers around life in the community when it is disrupted by the girl's father, who has returned from an unexplained absence, and the smooth British con man who has a get-rich-quick scam. For those who like a glimpse into Irish pub life and the lives of Irish farmers, it will be a good read.



SIG: **Wine**

Contact [Anne Dolchanczyk](#)

Corks and Forks ready to put tastebuds to the test



The varietals may not be the only item with a hidden identity... Cindy Harp is hosting the first gathering of the year on **October 27 at 3:00-5:00pm**. Costumes, though optional, make it a lot of fun. Look for more details in an email. If you did not receive the first notice, check your Spam folder and/or contact Anne Dolchanczyk.



SIG: **Play Reading**

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)



Hello Readers,
If you felt overlooked at the Emmys last week, you can be a star at our first play reading of the new AAUW year. We'll meet at Dawn Johnson's house on **Tuesday, October 1st, at 9:30 am**.

Mariposa Native Plants

www.MariposaNativePlants.com
 MariposaNativePlants@gmail.com
 209-742-1540 Ron & Beverley

See our website for plant availability

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



AAUW Branch
Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2024
Mariposa County Library
4:00 pm

Team Meeting Dates

2024	2025
July 2	Jan. 2
Aug. 13	Feb. 6
Sept. 5	Mar. 6
Oct. 3	Apr. 3
Nov. 7	May 1
Dec. 5	June 5

Members:

- ~~Bonnie Little, Co-Membership (absent)~~
- ~~Liz Darcy, Co-Membership (absent)~~
- Becky Mock, Recording Secretary (present)**
- Trish Darcy, President/Tech Trek (present)**
- Kim Monson, Gov Trek (present)**
- ~~Jill Rowney, Finance/Newsletter (absent)~~
- Anne Dolchanczyk, Goodwill Ambassador (present)**

The Meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes (Becky Mock)

The minutes from the August 13 meeting were approved via email.

Membership Update (Liz Darcy, Bonnie Little)

- We have 69 members (3 expire in the next 3 months)
- Ideas to increase membership
 - Be more visible
 - Provide more information of contributions at the national level
 - Begin renewal efforts in March

Finance Report (Jill Rowney)

- Beginning Balance: \$14,646.49; Income \$1,023.00; Expenses: \$955.20; Ending Balance: \$14,714.29.
Becky moved, and Anne seconded, and all were in favor of approving the August, 2024 Finance Report

Standing Projects:

- **Backpack Project** is completed and was very successful
 - Cost \$1872.78, (\$2,100 was budgeted)
- **Tech Trek**
 - "Roaring" success
 - We had 3 peer counselors participate
- **STEMEd**
 - Decided to not pursue this project
- **Gov Trek**
 - This is not being supported at the state level, so we will not be pursuing this year unless someone steps up.

Fundraisers:

- **Butterfly Festival**

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

- Trish suggested having a booth selling root beer float

Programs/Events:

Old Business:

September	Tech Trek Presentation potentially at Gold Cup Creamery. Need to promote event more to get more participation than last year. Plan to do the event on a Sunday	Trish
October	Self-Defense Class – Kim is a 3rd degree black belt has offered to teach. Consider inviting someone from the sheriff's office to speak about safety in Mariposa	
November	Holiday Shopping 1st weekend in November	Liz
December	Holiday Party at Nickel's	Jill
January	Marie Alvarado-Gil	
February	Line Dancing	
March	Lunch with Women in Leadership; Need committee of 5-6 to help plan event	Trish
April	Women's Health after 50, contact Hospital about their health fair	Liz, Becky
May	Butterfly Festival Booth	Anne
June	Annual Meeting– (Does not have to be at Trish's house)	Trish

- **Mentor Project**
Anne will meet with new principal when it can be arranged

New Business:

- **Lunch with Women in Leadership**
- **Scholarship Program (Liz Darcy)**
 - Send email requesting volunteers to be on the committee
- SIG sign up form
 - Request has gone out, will be sent again
 - SIG Zoom meeting for info?
- Board meeting changed to first Tuesday at each month
- Candidate Forum
 - Jill will help
- Membership Tracking Tool <https://www.aauw-ca.org/its-here-an-easy-way-to-measure-how-active-your-members-are/>

(Continued on page 13)

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

- Do we need to use this or develop our own spreadsheet which might be easier
- Our website needs work
 - Trish will ask Dina if she can help
- 5 Star Program <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e5c1DxBVjHlaGhWULy4wuZUs6WWIQ3G6rj7o4vF3fn0/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Need to look into trying to make more stars this year
- Handbook Review
 - Becky volunteered to help

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm

AAUW- Mariposa: www.aauwmariposa.com		Project Chairs/Coordinators	
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/aauwmariposa			
Instagram: AAUW_Mariposa			
Leadership Team: 2024-2025			
Trish Darcy	President	Backpack Project	Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher
Jill Rowney	Finance	Fundraising	Sandi Gabe
Bonnie Little	Co-Membership	Good Will Ambassador	Anne Dolchanczyk
Liz Darcy	Co-Membership	Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney
Becky Mock	Recording Secretary	Gov Trek	Kim Monson
Anne Dolchanczyk	Team Member	Programs/Events	open
Kim Monson	Team Member	Publicity	open
		Social Media	Trish Darcy
		Tech Trek	Trish Darcy & Barbara Silva
		Website	Dina Lambert
		AAUW	https://aauw.org/
		AAUW California	http://www.aauw-ca.org/