



Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia



Mistletoe
Phoradendron leucarpum

Sierra Outpost

Giving: A win-win for everyone!

—Trish Darcy

“The holidays are a time for giving.” We hear that every year. But giving is not only good for the recipient, it is also good for the receiver. Here are some reasons to consider giving this season:

- Generosity is good for your brain.
- The next time someone does something nice for someone else, pay attention to the person who is doing the giving. They light up!
- Generosity makes you—and those around you— feel good.
- Generosity is contagious; it makes us feel good. And when we feel good, we’re better at making those around us feel good as well.

- Generosity can help you live longer.
- Research shows that generosity lowers your stress levels.
- Generosity counters depression.
- When we focus on others, we learn more about ourselves. That same idea is being used to help people suffering from depression and other disorders.

Ways to give this holiday season:

- ◆ Donate to Manna House.
- ◆ Visit the Ewing Wing.
- ◆ Grab a tag from ***The Giving Tree*** at Pony Expresso.

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- ◆ Buy coffee for the person in line behind you.
- ◆ Bake cookies to deliver to neighbors.

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Leadership Team

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- ◆ Invite a neighbor to dinner.
 - ◆ Send a handwritten card to people.
 - ◆ Smile at people.
 - ◆ Let someone go ahead of you in line.
 - ◆and many more. Be creative!
- ◆ Don't forget that we are gathering donations to give to Mountain Crisis. Please bring these items to our holiday party on December 8th. Here is a link to their wish list: <https://mountaincrisisservices.org/get-involved/wish-list>

Events Calendar

2024

Dec 5 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:00pm, Mariposa County Library

December 8 Holiday Gathering: 1:00-4:00pm, home of Veronica Gross

Dec 9 **SIG– Book:** 2:00pm Home of Jaye Howes

Dec 10 **SIG—Play Reading:** 9:30am, home of Dawn Johnson

Dec 14 **SIG—Hiking:** Ahwahnee Hills Park



2025

January 2 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:00pm, Mariposa County Library

January 8 **Cocktails and Convos:** 5:00pm, The Grove House

January 11 **SIG—Hiking:** Merced River at Briceburg

March 29 **Lunch with Leaders:** Mariposa County Fairgrounds– Redbud Room



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 209-742-1540 Ron & Beverley

See our website for plant availability



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We Value Education

Leadership Team



State-level 2024 successes

News from AAUW California Public Policy Committee

A Successful 2024 Legislative Agenda

—By Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko, Co-chairs
AAUW California Public Policy

2024 has been an exciting year for AAUW California's Legislative Agenda. There were many excellent bills that were introduced in the legislature early in the year. The Public Policy Committee evaluated over 60 of these bills that were most closely aligned with our Public Policy Priorities. Our committee met virtually over a weekend in March to discuss and vote on the best bills to include in our 2024 Legislative Agenda, prioritizing them into A, B, C, and Watch categories. We selected 41 bills for our Legislative Agenda, not including the Watch bills, and from March through September we worked to educate about and advocate for these bills.

Thanks to the many AAUW members who participated in Lobby Days, to those who called or wrote to their legislators and the Governor through our Action Alert Network, and thanks in no small part to the tireless efforts of Kathy Van Osten, our Legislative Advocate, 29 of the 41 bills on our Legislative Agenda made it to

the Governor's desk, and 25 of them have been signed into law!

Excitingly, all three of our A priority bills were signed by the Governor:

- **Our signature bill AB 2843 was authored and sponsored by AAUW California. The bill eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape.** The bill was inspired when Kathi Harper, Public Policy Director, read an OpEd piece in the Los Angeles Times by Dr. Samuel Dickman, Chief Medical Officer at Planned Parenthood of Montana, describing the plight of countless rape survivors who do not seek medical care following their assault because of prohibitive costs. AB 2843 removes the cost barrier, ensuring that survivors can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.
- **AB 2326, also sponsored by AAUW California, requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and the State Universities, and the President of the University of California, to provide an annual report of their schools' compliance with Title IX.**

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We Inspire Lifelong Learning

Leadership Team

(Continued from page 3)

The report will be publicly, orally presented to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Education Finance.

- **AB 2099 makes it possible for the District Attorney to pursue felony charges for the posting of information about reproductive health care patients or providers if the posting and subsequent actions result in bodily injury.**

Two of our B priority bills were signed into law:

- AB 1790 requires the CSU system to report on the implementation of recommendations provided in the California State Auditor report, to **ensure Title IX compliance and protections against sexual harassment.**
- AB 1831 expands the law **prohibiting the possession and distribution of material depicting minors performing sexual activ-**

ities to include AI and computer-generated images.

And very significantly, AB 1955 was signed into law. This was a C priority bill only because it was added to our Legislative Agenda later in the process.

- **AB 1955 prohibits public schools from notifying parents if their child uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than assigned at birth.**

California is the first state in the nation to ban forced outing of transgender students.

For additional details on all the bills on the 2024 Legislative Agenda, see our bill tracking report [HERE](#).

And if you have not yet signed up for Action Alerts, and would like to be notified about opportunities to advocate for AAUW California's priority legislation in 2025, please sign up [HERE](#).

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

Project



Lunch with Leaders

—Trish Darcy

The **Lunch with Leaders** committee met again this last month to further plan the event. We have three women confirmed as speakers and are awaiting the fourth. We will open this up to all high school girls and will take up to 28 girls this first year. Our focus is to make this a leadership event as opposed to a “career day.”

We are now getting ready to begin planning the food for the event and are looking for helpers for this committee. Food will be:

- A simple appetizer
- A lunch of sandwiches and salad

- A simple dessert

For those not wanting to be on a committee, but want to help, we will be asking for food donations. We are hoping to have zero food costs with everything being donated. Be looking for what contributions we need after the food committee meets.

We look forward to this inaugural Lunch with Leaders event and will need lots of help and support from our membership! Please email Trish (tbdarcy1@gmail.com) if you are willing to be on the food committee. We’ll ask for food donations at a later date. Thanks in advance!



Open for discussion

—Trish Darcy

We had our first Coffee and Convos on November 16th at the Cinnamon Roll Bakery and Cafe.

14 of us gathered to discuss topics from the sculptures at the 4-way stop sign intersection

to palm trees to menopause. The Cafe treated us to a sampling of their goodies (and they were yummy)! Cocktails and Convos will be on January 8th at 5 pm at The Grove House. Come join us; it’s fun and super low key!



We Sponsor Community Forums

Membership

Bonnie Little, Liz Darcy



Member Corner: Idea exchange

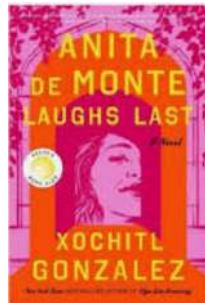
—Bonnie Little

Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining

We are back after a little break! I would like to thank Jill Harry who is such a great contributor to this column. With that said, let's get started!

Anita de Monte Laughs Last,

written by Xochitl Gonzalez, is based on the true story of Ana Mendieta, a Cuban painter, performance artist, and sculptor. She married Carl Andre, a well-known minimalist sculptor. In 1985, he threw her out the 34th story window of her Greenwich Village apartment. Carl was arrested and went to trial three years later and was acquitted. (Jill has an artist friend who lived in New York at the time, witnessed the uproar, and had no doubt that Carl was guilty). Gonzalez's book is a well-imagined telling of the story through the fictionalized characters of Anita and Jack. Anita's story is interspersed with the story of Raquel, a third-year art history student at an Ivy League university who is preparing her final thesis. Raquel is a minority at her school, surrounded by privileged students and feels like an outsider. When she begins a relationship



with a well-connected older art student, things change for her. At first she thinks the relationship is great, but soon finds it uncomfortable. She then hears about Anita de Monte, and in researching her, she makes some discoveries about herself.

Jill said that this book is very well-written and entertaining. It was selected to be a pick of the Reese Witherspoon Book Club.

Jill also recommends the new Netflix series ***Kaos*** starring Jeff Goldblum. The Greek Gods

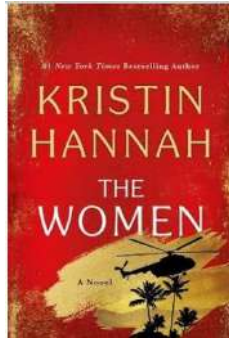


are a rich and powerful modern-day family. They are led by Zeus (Goldblum), who lives on Mount Olympus with his wife, Hera. Zeus is impulsive and deeply insecure. There is a plan to overthrow Zeus that depends on a slew of gods, demigods and mortals working together, whether or not they are aware of the roles they each are playing.

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

I just finished a novel that profoundly moved me, recommended by many friends and AAUW members. ***The Women***, written by Kristin Hannah, tells the story of Frankie McGrath, a young woman in 1965 who impulsively decides to join the Army Nurse Corps, to follow her brother who was sent to Vietnam. Frankie is naïve and inexperienced and has no idea of the horrors she will face as a surgical nurse in Vietnam. The descriptions of her work with the constant flow of injured and dying soldiers are overwhelming. Through it all, she bonds with two other nurses as they support one another. When Frankie returns home, the aftermath of war haunts her, and she has trouble assimilating



back into the life she once led. The fact that no one seemed to think that women had any role in the Vietnam conflict didn't help at all.

This is a book that I continue to think about. As a high school and college student in the late sixties/early seventies, Vietnam was a constant presence in our lives. Some supported the war, others did not. The news media did not always report the truth. Friends of mine went to fight for our country. Others were nervous that their draft number would be called. My boyfriend, now husband, enlisted and became a navy medic. His unit was next to be sent to Vietnam, but fortunately, they were not needed. As the war escalated, so did the protests. Activist Jane Fonda spoke at my college. The way the Vietnam veterans were greeted as they returned from war was shameful. It was a sad chapter in our history.



It's PARTY Time!

WHEN: DECEMBER 8

TIME: 1:00pm-4:00pm

WHERE: THE HOME OF VERONICA AND DAN GROSS

4145 SILVER BAR ROAD, MARIPOSA

Save the date! We will be collecting donations for Mountain Crisis (See next page for suggested donation list). If you did not receive an evite (check your spam folder), email [Trish Darcy](mailto:Trish.Darcy) to RSVP.



We Open Eyes

Membership

Bonnie Little, Liz Darcy

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 on December 8 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
- Bedding/blankets (full and twin size)
- New pillows
- Complete dish sets
- Reusable/disposable food storage containers
- Gallon size ziploc bags
- Foil & plastic wrap
- Kleenex

- Toilet paper
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry soap
- Magazine subscriptions (*Disney & Me, Highlights for Children, Nickelodeon, National Geographic for kids, Zoobooks, American Girl, Ranger Rick, Ebony, People, Time, Good Housekeeping, Ladies Home Journal, and People in Spanish*)
- Umbrellas
- VHS tapes and VCRs or DVDs and DVD players
- Commercial Vacuum
- Diapers- all sizes
- Blankets and Pillows
- Toothpaste and Tooth brushes
- Art Supplies
- Hair brushes

**MOUNTAIN CRISIS THANKS YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY!**

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 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



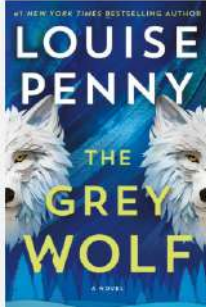
The Corks and Forks Wine group meets monthly to experience different types of wines and enjoy them with appetizers and meals paired to complement the varietal being tasted.

We Inspire Lifelong Learning



SIG: **Book**

Contact [Jaye Howes](#)



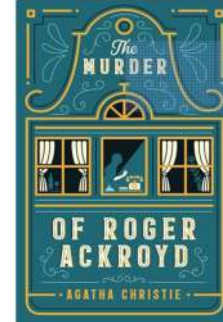
Our next meeting will be on **Monday, December 9, at 2:00 pm** at the home of Jaye Howes
We will be discussing two books:

Grey Wolf

By Louise Penny
and

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

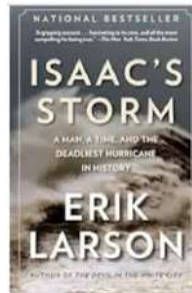
By Agatha Christie



Isaac's Storm

—Discussion notes by Rick Uebner

On September 8, 1900, a devastating hurricane hit Galveston, Texas, resulting in a loss of between 6,000 and 12,000 lives. For November, the SIG book group read Erik Larsen's account in **Isaac's Storm** (remember **The Devil in the White City?**). In his meticulous fashion, Larsen goes into immense detail chronicling



the development of the storm and the actions of Isaac Cline, local meteorologist for the National Weather Service. In his typical style, Larsen researched personal diaries, newspapers, and weather service reports. An air of hubris permeated the weather service, which was exemplified by Cline's actions. How could they be so wrong about predicting the deadliest hurricane in our history? Thanks to Jaye Howes for hosting the group.



SIG: **International Study**

Contact [Veronica Gross](#)

Overview of Vietnamese culture

—Veronica Gross

The AAUW International Studies group met on Tuesday, a November 12, at the home of Veronica Gross. This month, we focused on the culture of Vietnam. Tiina Wilson gave us a very well-researched presentation, covering many varied

aspects of their culture. This spawned thoughtful discussions. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, when the members of the group will learn more about the French colonial period of Vietnam.



We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

SIG: **Hiking**

Contact [Becky Mock](#)



Hiking group meets challenge of the “selfie”

—Becky Mock

On November 10 the Hiking group traversed Allred Road from the Hwy 140 junction down to the Hwy 49 junction. The day was lovely, starting cool and warming pleasantly, with smokey haze staying in the distance. Members participating included: Iris Chynoweth, Susan Flaming, Sue Overstreet, Becky Mock, Dina Lambert, who also brought a friend to enjoy the adventure. None of us were particularly adept at selfies, but we did manage to get a photo of the group, though it took 2 people to achieve this: one holding the phone and another pushing the shutter button. The hiking group will meet again on December 14 to hike Ahwahnee Hills Park.



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

Team Meeting Dates

2024	2025
July-2	Jan. 2
Aug- 3	Feb. 6
Sept-5	Mar. 6
Oct-3	Apr. 3
Nov. 4	May 1
Dec. 5	June 5

Members:

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

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We Sponsor Community Forums

(Continued from page 11)

The Meeting was called to order at 4:14 P.M.

Minutes (Becky Mock)

- The minutes of the Oct. 3, 2024 meeting were approved via email

Membership Update (Liz Darcy, Bonnie Little)

Directories

- Approximately 21 left
- Board members took some if they were going to see the member
- Bonnie will find out how much they would cost to mail

Membership Drive

- No Updates

Finance Report (Jill Rowney)

- Income: \$95.00; Expenses: \$1,879.98; Ending Balance: \$12,295.48

Programs/Events:

- Trish moved, Becky seconded, all were in favor of approving the finance report

Standing Projects:

Backpack Project-Kim

- Completed for the year

Tech Trek-Trish

- Dates for Tech Trek set for June 15-21, 2025 at Fresno State University
- Cost will be \$900 per participant
- We have an \$1800 credit at Fresno State
- \$500 matching from a donation last year is now available

Lunch with Leaders-Trish March 29th 11-2

- Committee has met
- Two confirmed participants

Scholarship-Liz

- No updates
- Consider asking Shelly Gerken to help

Fundraisers:

(Continued on page 13)

September	Tech Trek Presentation-Sunday, September 29th at 2:00	Trish
October	Candidates Forum Oct. 3	Kim
November	Holiday Shopping: Saturday, November 2, 2024	Liz
December	Holiday Party at Nickel's	Jill
January	Self Defense Class – Kim is a 3rd degree black belt has offered to teach, bring in female sheriff officer	Kim and Trish
February	Line Dancing	Trish
March	Lunch with Leaders: March 29	Trish
April	Women's Health after 50 (Will address after holidays)	Liz, Becky
May	Butterfly Festival Booth	Anne
June	Annual Meeting	Trish

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



Butterfly Festival-Anne

- No updates

Old Business:

Mentor Project (*Anne Dolchanczyk*)

- Hold off a year.

Candidate Forum (*Kim*)

- Was a successful evening

Handbook Review (*Trish and Becky*)

- Revisions completed
- Trish will send to board members for review

New Business:

Member Spotlight

- Kim has not had time

Cocktails and Convos

- Next will be scheduled for January 8, 2025, 5:00 pm at the Grove House

Coffee and Convos

- Scheduled for November 16, 2024, 10:00 A.M., Cinnamon Roll Bakery and Cafe

Upcoming Dates:

- Nov. 16th-Coffee and Convos
- Dec. 8th-Holiday Party

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

AAUW- Mariposa:

www.aauwmariposa.com

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

AAUW_Mariposa

Leadership Team: 2024-2025

Trish Darcy	President
Jill Rowney	Finance
Bonnie Little	Co-Membership
Liz Darcy	Co-Membership
Becky Mock	Recording Secretary
Anne Dolchanczyk	Team Member
Kim Monson	Team Member

Project Chairs/Coordinators

Backpack Project	Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher
Fundraising	Sandi Gabe
Good Will Ambassador	Anne Dolchanczyk
Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney
Gov Trek	Kim Monson
Programs/Events	open
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/>

We Open Eyes