



Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia



Mistletoe
Phoradendron leucarpum

Sierra Outpost

What is this new program:

“Lunch with Leaders?”

—Trish Darcy

Since UC Merced is no longer planning to host the “Dinner with a Scientist,” we brought up the idea of a new program to replace it at the annual meeting last June. Many people were interested in the idea of a lunch with women who are in leadership roles in our community. We got a committee together and have met a few times to get this new program up and running.

The program is meant to allow high school girls the opportunity to meet and interact with women who may inspire them and provide them the opportunity to come away with the conviction that they could do whatever they want to do. Women are under-represented in leadership roles and we would like to support girls

who wish pursue one. We are focusing on the idea of leadership skills and what makes a good leader as opposed to a “career day” type of event.

The format is modeled after “Dinner with a Scientist” in that the girls will be seated around a table in small groups with a woman leader at each table. The girls will have the opportunity to move from table to table to allow them to interact with all of the speakers.

We will be providing lunch, drinks, and dessert for the girls and speakers that day. This will be the part where we will need you, our members, to assist. We will be sending information out next month letting you know what you

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can contribute. We are probably going to do one large Costco trip the day before and will be seeking donations toward that food purchase. Watch for an upcoming email.

Events Calendar



2025

- Feb 6 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:00pm, Mariposa County Library
- Feb 8 **SIG—Hiking:** Morning Star Road
- Feb 10 **SIG—Book:** 2:00pm, home of Jaye Howes
- Feb 11 **SIG—International Study:** 5:15pm, home of Veronica Gross
- Feb 15 **SIG—Wine:** 2:00pm, home of Jaye Howes
- Feb 22 **Line Dancing:** 6:00pm, Mariposa Fitness Studio
- Feb 28 **Due date for polo shirt orders**
- March 6 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:00pm, Mariposa County Library
- March 8 **SIG—Hiking:** Merced River downstream from Briceburg
- March 10 **SIG—Book:** 2:00pm, home of Jaye Howes
- March 29 **Lunch with Leaders:** Mariposa County Fairgrounds– Redbud Room



Line dancing with UPS Sue

—Trish Darcy

Our Line Dancing event has changed a bit because Mariposa now has a regular line dancing class! Woohoo! It is still

led by UPS Sue and it is still at Mariposa Fitness Studio and it is still just \$10! Sue is actually teaching the evening of February 22nd (the day that we had her scheduled), but at 6:00pm. Instead of trying to compete for participants that evening, we have combined forces. AAUW members interested in line dancing that evening may come to the 6:00 class on February 22nd. The details are below, **but you do need to click [here](#) and register for the class** because numbers are limited.

The first hour is for beginners and the 2nd hour we put those steps to use in more dances! Bring a friend, significant other, or come by yourself– no partner is needed!

Saturday

February 22

6:00-8:00pm

Mariposa Fitness Studio

\$10

Registration required

We Value Education



To Page 1

Membership/Community

Self-Defense program offered to community

On January 19th, we hosted a popular self-defense workshop for the community. Our own Kim Monson instructed a group of 25 women on what to know and do in the event of an attack. She demonstrated the methods, covered safety issues for performing these techniques, and allowed time for lots of practice. The practice part was well-received by the attendees and it was decided that more of this should be provided in the future.



In addition to Kim’s presentation, we had the (only) two female deputies in our Sheriff’s Department come to speak and answer questions. Amber Rodriguez and Alicia Petretti gave us tips on how to keep ourselves safe. Among those ideas were that we need to always be aware of our surroundings, lock the car and the house, even if we are in our safe town of Mariposa, and always have a plan. They allowed for questions and we learned even more from their responses to the questions.

We Inspire Lifelong Learning

Project



AAUW Mariposa more visible

—Trish Darcy

Our branch is working to be more visible in our community and a perfect opportunity has arisen! Our local Butterfly Festival needs volunteers to work the Information Booth at the festival. We will be asking members to cover shifts at the booth on May 3rd and 4th. The hours will be sent out later. This is a great opportunity to help out at a community event and we will be very visible to all who attend the festival!

That said, we thought it would be nice if we had matching shirts to wear at the event. Instead of a printed T-shirt, the Leadership Team thought that polos would be a nicer, classier touch. We have contacted a local company that will make the shirts for us. These will be Port Authority *Silk Touch Performance* shirts: 65/35 poly-cotton, navy blue with small embroidered AAUW logo on the front at a cost of \$30. [Click here](#) for

order form. Orders specifying size and payment should be submitted to Anne Dolchanczyk (4052 Live Oak Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338). The deadline for orders is **February 28th**. That will allow time for the order to be completed before the Butterfly Festival event.

These shirts can be worn at any other AAUW function. Several members have similar polos they ordered in the past:



They make us look really awesome!



Cocktails and Convos: Open for discussion

—Trish Darcy

On January 8th, several of us members gathered at the Miner's Inn for a discussion of a variety of different topics. We discussed favorite drinks to try and favorite places to visit for a weekend away. There were lots of good ideas as we had a variety of people to pick the brains of for new ideas. The BIG topic of the evening was how women can keep themselves from being taken advantage of when dealing with contractors. We heard stories from several of us that make us think this might be a topic worth delving into more deeply at a later date.



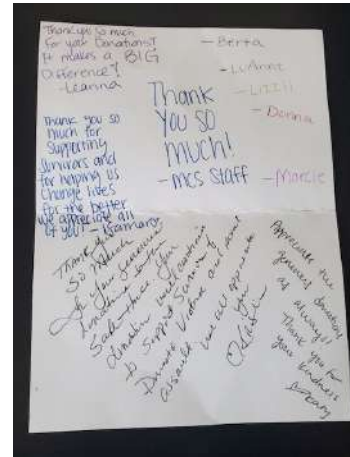
We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

Membership

Bonnie Little, Liz Darcy

Donations to Mountain Crisis

Our AAUW members opened their hearts and wallets for Mountain Crisis in Mariposa. Our donation was huge! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the MC "Wish List." To say they were extremely grateful would be an understatement.



Holiday party— 2024



The holiday party offered an opportunity to gather with friends new and old in the beautiful home of Veronica and Dan Gross. The views were stunning. The conversation was engaging and the food was outstanding. Click [here](#) and scroll down a little for more pictures.

We Sponsor Community Forums



We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



Spotlight on Mary Jensen

—Kim Monson

One of our newer AAUW members is Mary Jensen.

She was born in Des Moines, Iowa, but remembers nothing about it. Her father, having served in the Navy and been stationed in California, swore he would live there one day. Well, that day happened when the family moved to Danville (in the East Bay) when Mary was barely a toddler.

When her parents split up, Dad moved to San Mateo and Mary, her two siblings, and her mom moved in with Mom's second husband in Calaveras County. That is when Mary developed her love for horses.

Now Calaveras is not known for its excellent schools, so at the age of 14, Mary moved in with Dad and attended San Mateo High School. She went on to study liberal arts at the College of San Mateo, then earned a BS in behavioral science at Notre Dame de Namur. This Notre Dame is a small private college in the San Mateo area. Mary said she grabbed the behavioral science major because it was the quickest degree she could get, as she was getting quite tired of school. She must have done well in her efforts, however, because she was given a Regents' Scholarship to help her finish.

Mary went to work for a company that shipped agriculture commodities overseas and said it was an education all over again. She learned about finance and especially about maritime law. The



company was bought out by Con Agra, which wasn't as fun. She did manage a small group of people tasked with shipping documentation. After six years, Mary had had enough of the "big company attitude." So she left for another learning experience (job).

A friend of hers owned a printing brokerage. He was working by himself and needed help so Mary went into the publishing business. They took in

books, catalogs, posters, and worked with the creators to get these materials ready with type-setting, graphics, organization, and then sent them overseas to be printed. Along the way, she received a certificate in web/graphic design from UC Berkeley. Mary really enjoyed the creative aspects of the job as well as working with the clients.

Unfortunately, Mary contracted breast cancer, followed by two other bouts of cancer and had to retire. Her new job was just to survive. Along the way, she was able to accompany her husband, a telecommunications engineer, to Chicago, Rome, Bahamas, and Florida as he followed his career path.

Mary has two children and many grandchildren. Her son, Jesse, lives here in Mariposa with his wife and children. Mary's daughter, who served our country as a Marine, now lives in Michigan where she is a paralegal working for the Red Cross.

We Open Eyes

Membership

Bonnie Little, Liz Darcy



Member Corner: Idea exchange

—Bonnie Little

Our members share what we have found enlightening and entertaining

Are you a confirmed Podcast fan, or just getting started like me? Here are two excellent suggestions from Jill Harry:

In Julia Louis-Dreyfus's podcast, "**Wiser Than Me**," she has many great interviews with older women sharing their knowledge. Some of my favorites include Isabella Rossellini, Isabel Allende, Carol Burnett, Ina Garten, Billie Jean King, Patti Smith, and Anne Lamott. There are so many more! They are very interesting women. Julia gets them to share helpful advice they've learned themselves through their years of living. Julia always starts with an anecdote from her own life and ends with a phone call with her 90-year-old mother, which is really sweet.



"**The Good Whale**" tells the story of Keiko, a killer whale that starred in the movie, "Free Willy." Fans found out he was sick and living in a tiny pool at a Mexican



amusement park and begged for his release into the wild. It wasn't easy to achieve, but it became a kind of science experiment. He was moved from Mexico to the US, to Norway, each time landing in the hands of well-intentioned people who believed they knew what was best for him. Decades later, many people still disagree whether they did the right thing. The story immediately pulls you in as you become invested in what happens to Keiko.

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 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.

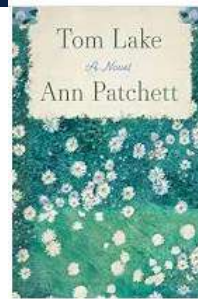
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SIG: **Book**

Contact [Jaye Howes](#)

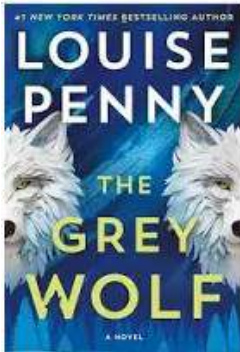
Our next meeting will be on **Monday, February 10, at 2:00 pm** at the home of Jaye Howes We will be discussing **Tom Lake** By Ann Patchett



Grey Wolf

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

Discussion notes by Rick Uebner

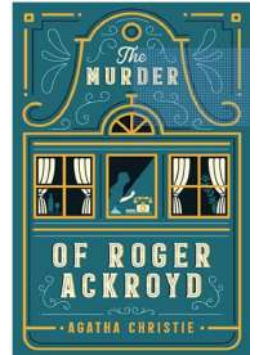


The Book SIG decided to choose a mystery by a known author. Too many books, too little time. So we chose two books: *The Grey Wolf* by Louise Penny and *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha

Christie. Penny continues her series (this is her 19th) with a story featuring the sleuth, Chief Inspector Gamache. Centered around a threat of ecoterrorism on a major Canadian metropolis, the Inspector and his team travel to Montreal, Ottawa, Washington, D.C., the Vatican, Paris, and his home of Three Pines, as well as a remote monastery on the Canadian coast. If you know the Inspector and his team,

the names will be familiar. The book moves quickly through a web of interconnected individuals to eliminate the threat.

In *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, Agatha Christie continues to follow the exploits of Hercule Poirot, the Belgian detective with a penchant for detail. Not one to jump to conclusions (as others in the book do), he meticulously interrogates anyone with any contact with the deceased in addition to viewing all of the physical evidence to come to his logical decision which reveals a dramatic twist.




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

See our website for plant availability

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



SIG: International Study

Contact [Veronica Gross](#)

French colonization of Vietnam

—Veronica Gross

Members of the International SIG met on Tuesday, January 14. Susan Flaming gave a wonderful, informative presentation on the French colonial occupation of Vietnam from 1887 to 1954. Having been provided a bibliography of books compiled by Sue Overstreet and Beth Tomsick and a list of movies provided by Susan Flaming, most members were able to do some research

ahead of time which contributed to a lively discussion. Instead of continuing on to the American involvement at this time, the group will have a “book club” type of meeting on February 11, where all members will have read and will share their thoughts on a particular book on Vietnam.



SIG: Wine

Contact [Anne Dolchanczyk](#)

Get “RED-DY” for a great time!

Next wine event will be February 15 from 2:00-5:00pm. The theme will be red: RED wine, RED appetizers, RED clothes, and RED lipstick!



Wine Event:

Saturday



February 15

2:00-5:00 pm

Home of Jaye Howes

We Sponsor Community Forums



We did not get up at seven am to read *Morning's at Seven*

On December 10th, seven members of the Play Reading Group gathered at the far more respectable hour of 9:30 am to read this 1930's comedy. We never could understand the meaning of the title as it related to the play, but we were just happy to be awake.

The play was about four sisters in a small midwestern town who decided late in life that it might be time for some changes. It had two Broadway revivals in spite of mixed critical acclaim, which might be due to NYT's explanation that it was popular because it "provides

hefty roles for aging actors."

—Dawn Johnson

Obviously, that made it a good fit for our group.

The play was an agreeable read with a few surprises. It was made better by the readers being able to keep the same parts throughout. Sometimes the number of readers and characters works out; sometimes it doesn't and we end up rotating a lot or reading multiple parts. Oh, the predicaments of great theater!

The next play, by Somerset Maugham, is described as a "popular comedy of modern



She would not have had a role on *Desperate Housewives*

Five members of the play group gathered on January 13th to read *The Constant Wife*, a 1930's comedy by Somerset Maugham. Yes, Somerset Maugham. Not exactly an icon of comedic writing.

But, surprisingly, the play was a clever look at how a traditional housewife could be anything but traditional. Faced with a philandering husband, the aptly-named heroine, Constance, appeared to coolly accept her fate and remain

resigned to a marriage of pretense. Her situation could have been desperate in those days. But she was not. She found a clever way to turn the tables and maintain her marriage and dignity on her own terms. Considering the play's era, her solution was quite "modern."

We found the play very readable, with some food for thought. Even today.

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential



AAUW Branch
Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2024
Mariposa County Library

Team Meeting Dates

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)

The Meeting was called to order at 4:14 p.m.

Minutes (Becky Mock)

- Minutes from the November, 2024 meeting were approved via email and submitted to Jill

Membership Update (Liz Darcy, Bonnie Little)

- Current number:
- 69 current members, no change from last month
- Directories
- One more attempt will be made to hand out directly at the Holiday Party. Any remaining directories will be mailed.
- Membership Drive– no updates

Finance Report (Jill Rowney)

- Income: \$65.00; Expenses: \$283.20; Balance: \$12,077.28
- Trish moved, Bonnie seconded, all were in favor to approve the financial report with the correction of moving \$15.00 income from National to District in the Dues section.

Standing Projects:

• **Backpack Project**- Kim– done for this year

• **Tech Trek**—Trish

- Trish has notified schools
- Volunteers will be notified by email of the online waiver forms to be signed after reading the safety information.

• **Lunch with Women in Leadership**—Trish; March 29th, 11-2; Food Committee and permit

- Have 3 speakers lined up (Anita Starchman, Rosemarie Smallcomb, Kristina Keheley). Hope to find a 4th, potentially Bridget Fithian
- Date set for March 29, 2025
- Location will be the Red Bud Room
- Plan for 28 girls, 7 per table

We Open Eyes

(Continued from page 13)

- **Scholarship:** Liz
 - Will start working on this in January

Fundraisers:

- **Butterfly Festival**– Ann, volunteer as opposed to have a booth
 - Decided against a booth because of cost, number of hours required to man the booth, and uncertain proceeds
 - Decided to volunteer because of branch exposure opportunity, no cost, less hours needed

Old Business

Programs/Events:

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

- Mentor Project (Anne Dolchanczyk)- hold off a year
- Handbook Review (Trish and Becky)
 - Bonnie moved, Anne seconded, all were in favor of accepting revised handbook
 - The approved handbook will be emailed to all members

New Business

- Member Spotlight
 - Kim has interviewed someone. Will be in February newsletter. No newsletter on January 1
- Cocktails and Convos
 - Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 5:00 pm at The Grove House
- Line Dancing
 - Will be at Mariposa Fitness Studio
 - Will ask for a \$10.00 fee

Upcoming Dates:

- Dec 8th: Holiday Party
- Jan 8th– Cocktails and Convos
- Jan 19th– Self Defense
- Feb 22nd– Line Dancing

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.



AAUW Branch
 Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
 January 2, 2025
 Mariposa County Library

Team Meeting Dates

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)

The Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes (*Becky Mock*)

- Minutes from the December 5, 2024 meeting were approved online.

Membership Update (Liz Darcy, Bonnie Little)

- Current number: 69
- Directories: 22 remaining undistributed. Directories will be mailed
- Membership Drive
 - Bonnie and Liz will meet in January

Finance Report (Jill Rowney)

- Beginning Balance: \$12,077.28; Income: \$15.00; Expenses: \$7.50; Ending Balance: \$12,085.08
- Trish moved, Liz seconded, all were in favor of approving the December financial report

Standing Projects:

- Backpack Project– Kim– done for this year
- Tech Trek– Trish: no updates
- Lunch with Women in Leadership—Trish
 - March 29th, 11 am—2 pm
 - Decision has been made to have it at the Senior Center
 - Food Committee and permit– need to find out what is needed. Bonnie will check with Senior Center kitchen
- Scholarship– Liz
 - Liz will find out from high school how scholarships for students already in college might work

Fundraisers:

- Butterfly Festival– Anne
 - Volunteer in the Information Booth as opposed to manning a booth to sell something.

We Inspire Lifelong Learning

Programs/Events:

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

Old Business

- Mentor Project (Anne Dolchanczyk) hold off a year
- Polo shirt order
 - They will be navy blue with white letters
 - Asked for a sizing chart
 - Suggested \$30 price, to be paid when ordered
 - Jill will include graphic and instructions on how to order in February newsletter
 - Shirts will need to be ordered by February 28

New Business

- Member Spotlight
 - Kim has an article ready to go
- Cocktails and Convos
 - Event moved to Miner's Inn because Grove House is closed January
- Line Dancing– Feb. 22nd, 4:00
- Women's Health
 - Liz and Becky will meet Jan 7, 11 am
- Publicity
 - Two people can work on this. Sandi has indicated she could do this with Dawn

Upcoming Dates:

- Jan. 8th: Cocktails and Convos
- Jan. 19th: Self Defense
- Feb. 6th: Leadership Team meeting
- Feb 22nd: Line Dancing

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



Mariposa Branch AAUW Polo Shirt

Order Form

Port Authority "Silk Touch Performance"

65/35 poly cotton, wrinkle resistant [Click here](#) for more details.

Check the size:

Small___ Med___ Large___ XLarge___

2XLarge___ 3XLarge___ 4XLarge___

Send form and check payable to Mariposa AAUW for \$30.00 to Anne Dolchanczyk, 4052 Live Oak Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338.

The deadline for orders is February 28th.

AAUW- Mariposa:

www.aauwmariposa.com

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

AAUW_Mariposa

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

[Sandi Gabe](#)

Social Media

[Trish Darcy](#)

Tech Trek

[Trish Darcy &](#)

[Barbara Silva](#)

Website

[Dina Lambert](#)

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

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