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Sierra Outpost

March—Women’s History Month:

—Trish Darcy

Meet several important women

March is Women’s History Month. AAUW Mariposa will be celebrating remarkable women who have had important roles in shaping history on March 15th with an event at The Grove House. See page 4 for more information.

I found this [website](#) featuring amazing women who changed the world. These are not the common names you usually see! So kick up your heels and celebrate these women and those women around you!

Cleopatra (69BC-30 BC)

The last pharaoh of ancient Egypt wasn’t a man. It was a woman! Educated, cultured, and polyglot, Cleopatra achieved great success in politics. She signed alliances with the most powerful leaders of the time: Julius Caesar and Mark

Antony. She ruled shrewdly to ensure the stability and financial solvency of her country by means of various economic initiatives. Although many films featuring her suggest a seductive image, some authors describe her as a scientist, a philosopher, and an alchemist.

Hypatia (between 355 and 370-415)

Unknown to most people until Alejandro Amenabar popularized her story in the film titled *Agora*, *Hypatia of Alexandria*, she is regarded as the first female mathematician. She was the daughter of a prominent Greek astronomer and mathematician named Theon and, educated by her father, she also excelled in philosophy and astronomy. She devoted her life to learning and teaching these subjects to others. Her contributions to science were

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ignored in her time, but they influenced Newton, Leibnitz, and Decartes. A proponent of Neoplatonism, she was lynched

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Events Calendar



2025

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 11	SIG—International Study: 5:15pm, home of Veronica Gross
March 15	Celebrating Women in History: 3-5pm, The Grove House
March 29	Lunch with Leaders: Mariposa County Fairgrounds— Redbud Room
April 3	Leadership Team Meeting: 4:00pm, Mariposa County Library
May 3-4	Butterfly Festival, Mariposa County Fairgrounds

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and burned to death by Christian fanatics for her pagan beliefs.

Ada Lovelace (1815-1852)

Another important woman in history due to her work is the Englishwoman, Ada Lovelace. Daughter of the poet, Lord Byron, and the scientist and mathematician, Anne Isabella Milbanke, she was a distinguished mathematician, writer, and musician. She is most renowned, however, for her contribution to the development of computing and is regarded as the world's first computer programmer. The work of this forerunner of modern programming on the analytical engine inspired Alan Turing when he designed the first electronic computer.

Marie Curie (1867-1934)

Marie Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and she is still the only scientist to have received TWO: one in physics in 1903 and one in chemistry in 1911. As a leading researcher, her work paved the way for the advancement of modern physics. Despite the

discrimination of the time, she achieved her goal of studying and developing her talent and subsequently promoted women's access to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) degrees. One of her most famous quotes is "I was taught that the road to progress was neither quick nor easy."

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)

In a male-dominated society, the brilliant writer, Virginia Woolf, criticized the lack of equality and the obstacles for women when it came to developing their careers and becoming independent. In her works, Woolf recounted her outrage at discrimination and the inferior position of the female gender. She was ahead of her time. Although over a century has passed since her works were published, the ideas of this pioneer of the feminist movement still live on and her legacy continues to influence modern culture today.

Clara Campoamor (1888-1972)

This Spanish lawyer, writer, and politician (she was one of the first female deputies in Spain)

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We Value Education



Leadership

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fought for equality between men and women and, above all, women's suffrage. Due to her tenacity, she achieved a historic milestone: the 1931 constitution (of Spain) recognized the right of women to vote and they went to the polls for the first time in the 1933 elections.

Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986)

French philosopher and writer, Simone de Beauvoir, challenged and criticized the dominant patriarchy of her time. Her book titled *The Second Sex* has become a "bible" of modern western feminism. In her writings she laid the foundations for legal abortion and birth control in France and launched a new women's liberation movement. To that extent, she symbolizes what is known as the second wave of feminism in the 1970s.

Rosa Parks (1913-2005)

Her arrest in 1955 for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger contributed to the end of racial segregation. This incident made her a symbol of the fight against racism in the United

States. In her fight for equality, she is recognized as the founder of the civil rights movement.

Rosalind Franklin (1920-1958)

She studied chemical physics at Cambridge and was instrumental in the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA. Using a technique called X-ray crystallography, she captured an image of the same image (known as *Photograph 51*) with which James Watson and Francis Crick identified and understood the structure of DNA. For this work, published in *Nature*, the two scientists won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1962, eclipsing the role of the researcher in this scientific breakthrough that paved the way for life-saving drugs.

Benazir Bhutto (1953-2007)

Benazir Bhutto is one of the most important women in history, as she was the first elected female Muslim prime minister of an Islamic country, Pakistan (from 1988 to 1990 and 1993 to 1996). As prime minister she led the way towards equality for Muslim women in the country. Her murder in 2007 shocked the world.



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We Inspire Lifelong Learning

Membership

Women’s “HerStory” Month

—Kim Monson

AAUW is sponsoring a Women’s “HerStory” Month Celebration at the Grove House on Saturday, March 15th from 3-5pm. It will feature songs and stories about women’s achievements throughout the decades. If you have a story to tell about discrimination in your life, that wouldn’t happen in this present day, please come and share. As an example, a common story many of us remember was the requirement that all girls in K-8 wear dresses or skirts to school. That ended in the 70s and today’s young women can’t even imagine such a rule!

Celebrating Women’s “HerStory”

Saturday, March 15

3:00-5:00pm

The Grove House

We will also have a game with Grove House gift cards as prizes and a photo booth with you as “Rosie the Riveter.” Mostly, let’s join together and celebrate progress and continue to move forward!



Coffee and Convos: Open for discussion

—Trish Darcy

Another successful Coffee and Convos was held at Pony Expresso on February 22nd with the new owners. We had lively discussions on a variety of topics ranging from a US city that you want to visit to working in a

fruit packing plant, to a ketchup factory! This came from sharing our least favorite jobs. We’ll have one more Cocktails and Convos on May 14th at 5:00 at The Alley. If you have not joined us for one of these, come try it out!



We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

Membership

Lunch with Leaders! How you can help

—Trish Darcy

Our new program, *Lunch with Leaders!*, is coming together nicely. I want to thank Dawn and Sandi for their help in getting this up and running for its inaugural year. I also have Bonnie, Liz, and Jill working hard on the food committee as well as Anne and Kim who will be helping in the kitchen the day of the event. Without help, my small idea would not be coming to light!

This is also where you come in, Wonderful, Generous AAUW Members! We are hoping to keep food costs at \$0. In order to do that we will need your help!!! We are looking for monetary donations-any amount is greatly appreciated. These can be sent to Jill Rowney at 4131 Silver Bar Rd. Make checks payable to AAUW Mariposa. Please have those sent to her by March 15th. If you would like, we will also be looking for donations of home-made

cookies for the event. Email Trish Darcy at tbdarcy1@gmail.com with the number of cookies you plan to donate. Thank you in advance for helping to make this event successful!

At this event, high school girls will have the chance to meet, interact with, and ask questions of women in our community in leadership roles. Our goal is that these girls see women in these roles and see that they, too, can aspire to be anything that they desire. These speakers will give the girls tools and pointers, as well as personal stories of their experiences in gaining these roles.

We think this will be a valuable day for the girls and hope to see this continue in the future.

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 Sponsor Community Forums



Project: Tech Trek

Applications are in, the selection begins

—Trish Darcy

As of today, we have received applications from the girls who were nominated for Tech Trek by their teachers. Thank you to Rick Uebner, Dawna Hunter, Barbara Silva, and Trish Darcy who visited each school site three times over three weeks to work with the girls on their applications and essays. We have a great group of girls from which to choose!

The applications are now in the hands of our scorers: Pat Elka, Kim Monson, Becky Mock, Peggy Shainburg, and Rose Ann Weinburke. These people read through the essays and score each section based on a rubric. It can be a daunting task when many applications are submitted, but it is so rewarding as well, and

we thank them for their time and thoughtful evaluating.

The last step in selecting this year's Tech Trek campers will occur on March 15th. At that time we will interview each candidate and, again, score them on a rubric. Our interview team this year is Liz Darcy, Bonnie Little, and Sara Robison. Thanks to them as well! This, too, is a very rewarding day, meeting our candidates in person. After that, we will know our 5 campers for this year. They are sure to be another great bunch representing our branch.



Butterfly Festival- seeking volunteers

—Trish Darcy

Set aside May 3rd and 4th for the Butterfly Festival. AAUW Mariposa will be manning the information booth and we will need volunteers to sign up for shifts. This is a perfect opportunity for us to be seen out in the

community and get some public exposure. Maybe we can get fewer blank stares when we mention AAUW. A sign-up form will be going out by email in April, so be watching for it.



AAUW? What's that?



We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

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 Open Eyes



SIG: Book

Contact [Jaye Howes](#)

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 10, at 2:00 pm at the home of Jaye Howes We will be discussing ***The Briar Club*** by Kate Quinn

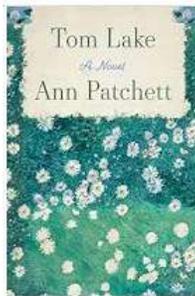


Tom Lake

by Ann Patchett

Discussion notes by Rick Uebner

A high school actress became a college actress and transitioned into a perfect Emily in *Our Town*. Laura Kenison was thrust into the role in a small summer theater called "Tom Lake" in northern Michigan. Later in her life, she unites with her three daughters while picking cherries at the family orchard and the girls press her to relate her experiences



at Tom Lake. They are especially interested in her relationship with Peter Duke, who also acted in the play and later became a Hollywood heartthrob. The story revolves around the relationship between a mother and her daughters. The reviews from our book group were mixed.



SIG: Hiking

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

Enjoying the respite between storms

Liz Darcy, Becky Mock, Dina Lambert, and her friend, Terri took a brisk walk along Morning Star Road on Saturday, February 8. It was a perfectly beautiful day between our recent rainstorms to walk along the gorgeous countryside. Our next hike will be Saturday, March 8, when we will be walking downstream on the Merced River hoping to see many spring wildflowers. Dogs will be welcome on this hike.



We Value Education



Sharing of Vietnamese books

—Jill Rowney



On February 11, members of the International SIG gathered at the home of Veronica Gross where several reviewed and discussed books they had read:

- Peggy Shainberg read *Embers of War*: highlighted that the options the US chose put us on a “collision course”.
- Beth Tomsick– *The Mountain Sings*: It depicted historical events that the Vietnamese government preferred to keep from the general public. The book was published in English to avoid censorship. It described the tremendous challenges borne by the Vietnamese, demonstrating their resilience and strength. Tragic tales written in poetic form.
- Sue Overstreet read *The Sorrow of War*: written in the 1980’s, it compared life in Vietnam before and during the war. As it described what really happened, it was banned in Vietnam– a very difficult, but powerful read.
- Sue Flaming read *Sacred Willow*: a biography of a Vietnamese family. Members of this family were highly educated and managed to maintain their integrity, despite the French occupation and the corrupt government officials. People once again shown as strong and resilient.
- Marti Fazio read *The Women*: A story of nurses and their experiences in the “American War.” Operation Nightingale was an army program to recruit nurses. It promised travel and education, but it sent nurses to Vietnam who were sorely unprepared.
- Ruffina Roberts read *The Fields of Fire* (by James Webb) and *The Things That We Carry* (by Tim O’Brien). Both books related stories of soldiers’ experiences and what many young men did to avoid the draft. They exposed the fact that BOTH sides of the war had many soldiers fighting without any real reason for commitment; neither side was totally invested in their fight.
- Nickel Gross read *Road Not Taken*– Story of diplomat Landsdale who realized the importance of recognizing and respecting cultural differences rather than imposing foreign ideas and ideals onto other nations. Had his advice been heeded, the tragedies of the war could have been avoided.
- Beth Tomsick shared *Prisoner of War*– a personal account of an American who spent six years in a Vietnamese prison revealing the atrocities and horrors of captivity.



SIG: Wine

Contact [Anne Dolchanczyk](#)

A very RED afternoon

—Anne Dolchanczyk



The Wine group had a great time at a Valentine’s Day themed party. Jaye, our wonderful hostess, planned a really fun event for us. Everything was red– from the food, the wine, the clothes, we wore, right down to the red lips! We tasted some delightful red wines. A good time was had by all!

Now who wants to plan our next event?



We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

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AAUW Branch
 Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
 February 6, 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 (absent)

The Meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

Minutes (*Becky Mock*)

- Approved online.

Membership Update (Liz Darcy, Bonnie Little)

- Current number, no change
- Membership Drive
 - Ideas discussed include something in the fall, spring would be better, maybe invite folks to annual meeting

Finance Report (Jill Rowney)

- No Income; Expenses: \$607.20; Ending Balance: \$11,477.88
- \$600 of expenses were deposited on room for Lunch with Women in Leadership, and some will be refunded.
- Trish moved, Bonnie seconded, and all approved the finance report

Standing Projects:

- Backpack Project– Kim– done for this year
- Tech Trek– Trish:
 - Payment is due
 - \$1800 credit, so \$2700 is due
- Lunch with Women in Leadership—Trish
 - Deposit on room is over budget, but some will be returned keeping final cost within budget
 - Anita Starchman, Rosemarie Smallcombe, Kristina Keheley, and Lydia Lower have agreed to participate
- Scholarship– Liz
 - Liz has been talking to the registrar and with a counselor in charge of college info to determine how we might go about awarding a scholarship to either a high school graduate or someone who is already in college.

We Sponsor Community Forums

Fundraisers:

- Butterfly Festival-
 - Anne will find out what times we will be needed
 - Trish will make a sign-up form for 3-hour shifts

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 fe-	Kim and
February	Line Dancing	Trish
March	29th, 11-2pm: Lunch with Women in Leadership 15th, 3-5pm: Women’s History, Grove House	Trish
April	Women’s Health after 40	Liz, Becky
May	3rd and 4th: Butterfly Festival Volunteer 14th, 5pm: Cocktails and Convos, The Alley	Anne
June	Annual Meeting	Trish

Old Business

- Mentor Project (Anne Dolchanczyk) hold off a year
- Polo shirt order
 - By February 28; Jill will send out a reminder
- Line Dancing– Cancelled
- Women’s Health
 - Set date for Saturday, April 26
 - Changing to Women’s health ofve 40 rather than 50
 - Have at Supervisors’ meeting room
- Women’s History Program
 - Kim Monson organizing
 - March 15, 3:00-5:00pm
 - Grove House
- Event Planning Timeline
[AAUW Program/Event Planning Timeline - Google Docs](#)

New Business:

- Member Spotlight
- Cocktails and Convos
 - Wednesday, May 14, The Alley, 5pm

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

(Continued from page 12)

- Lobby Days– not this year

Upcoming Dates:

- Feb 22nd: Coffee and Convos, 10 am, Pony Expresso
- March 6th– Leadership Team meeting
- March 15th– Women’s history
- March 29th– Lunch with Women in Leadership

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm

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