



Pacific dogwood
Cornus nuttallii



Mountain maple
Acer spicatum

Sierra Outpost

Surprising perks of AAUW membership

—Trish Darcy



While trying to come up with a topic for this month's newsletter, I thought maybe I could write about what the benefits of being a member might be. I was thinking non-tangible, but as I began researching, I discovered some surprising perks!

Before we go there, let me share what was in my brain before I began my research. I'll share my "why" for becoming a member.

As I was nearing retirement, I began to wonder if, after retirement, I would have friends and a social life (!). At the time, my friends were my co-workers and I did things outside of work with them. I really enjoyed them and realized that once retired, I would lose that daily contact with them. AAUW seemed like

a good organization to get involved with. So I did!

At about that time, a couple of members reached out to me and asked if I would be willing to help out with Tech Trek. Saying yes, I soon found out that Tech Trek was a passion of mine. What could be better than sending girls to a STEM camp?

Then I was given the opportunity to become the Tech Trek coordinator as we needed a new one. Once again, I said yes! Thanks to the support of long-term members, I was able to wade through everything and get organized! Then thanks again to our members willing to help out, we successfully sent five girls to camp that year and I was hooked! I had found my "why."

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What is your "why?" What do you get out of being an AAUW Mariposa member? Maybe it is one of these:

- AAUW is a community.
- We provide educational programs to our community.
- We provide fun events to our members.
- We provide backpacks with school supplies to middle schoolers in need.
- We have Special Interest Groups to join for more fun! So many things to participate in!

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And then the surprise happened! When I began researching online the benefits of being a member, I discovered actual monetary benefits! AAUW does make a disclaimer that says they “make no representation or warranties with respect to these products and/or services.” Here they are with a link at the end to read more about them:

- Discounts on Budget and Avis rental cars
- Travel Savings Center for other travel options

- Long-term healthcare (LTCR+)
- Discount on a subscription to Ms. Magazine
- AAUW merchandise

Here is the link to read more details:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>

These are just more reasons to be a member other than supporting women and girls in our community! Aren't you glad you joined?

Events Calendar

2025

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Nov 4 | SIG—Play Reading: 9:30am, home of Dawn Johnson |
| Nov 4 | Election Day— last day to vote |
| Nov 6 | Leadership Team Meeting: 4:00pm, Mariposa County Library |
| Nov 8 | Holiday Shopping: 11:00am, Meet at The Cinnamon Roll Place |
| Nov 10 | SIG—Book: 2:00pm, home of Jaye Howes |
| Nov 11 | SIG—International Study: 3:00pm, home of Veronica Gross |
| Nov 15 | Coffee and Convos: 10:00am, The Cinnamon Roll Place |
| Nov 16 | SIG—Hiking: Big Oak Flat, Yosemite |



December 7 Holiday Gathering: 1:00-4:00pm, home of Veronica and Dan Gross



Coffee and Convos
Saturday, November 15
10:00 a.m.



The Cinnamon Roll Place

We Value Education



Membership



Preparing for the holiday season

Want to have some fun with friends? We have the day for you! Saturday, **November 8th** (originally scheduled for the 1st), we will be doing our Holiday Shopping day again in town. We support our local businesses and get a start on our holiday shopping. Come with your list. We will meet at the Cinnamon Roll Bakery and Cafe, 5009 5th St. at 11:00 to shop. If you want to grab coffee beforehand, show up at 10:30 as many shops do not allow drinks inside. We have really enjoyed this the last couple of years and usually end the day grabbing a bite to eat or drinks together somewhere.

**Holiday Shopping
Downtown Mariposa**

Saturday

November 8

11:00am

**Meet at the "Cinnamon
Roll Bakery and Café"**

It's PARTY Time!

WHEN: DECEMBER 7

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 Manna House (see page 6 for more information). Further details will be forthcoming in an evite.

We Inspire Lifelong Learning

Project: Tech Trek

Tech Trek campers were full of excitement!

—Trish Darcy



On Sunday, October 5th, a small contingent of our membership was awed and inspired by hearing from our Tech Trek campers! These girls are going places! Their excitement was very contagious, and I think we all left ready to pack our bags and head to camp ourselves.

When asked what part was not so good, they could not find anything negative to say! They began talking about how the food could have been a little better, but then ended by telling us how good it was. They just couldn't be negative.

What stood out most to me was how thankful and gracious they all were. Every single one of them worked into their share how grateful they were to us for being able to take part in this experience. Then we turned it over to the parents. They, too, jumped in with their praise of the program and what they saw it do for their child. It truly was a day that makes me know that the time and effort we put into this program make it all worth it.

That being said, I am looking for someone who can step up and help me with the background work for Tech Trek. We have a great team that steps up by visiting the schools to help support the girls while completing their applications, helping to score said applications, and conducting interviews. What I need is someone who can work with me on the computer part prior to all of this: attending Zoom meetings to learn how the program works, contacting schools, following up with teachers, creating the visitation schedule, following up with parents, organizing the interviews, etc. It is best to be familiar with Google Docs and computer work. Also, the parents respond better to texts, so someone who can work with that. It would, of course, not all fall upon you. We would do every step together as we go. I have all the framework, documents and emails drafted, and timeline. I just need someone to help share the load. If you might be interested, please email me (tbdarcy1@gmail.com) or text me (209-617-0631) and we can have a conversation. Thank you! It is such a rewarding program and so worth the time!!

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

Membership

Members' first gathering of the new year

—Trish Darcy

On September 25th we held our Fall Member Gathering at The Grove House. We had existing members as well as new members join us.

The rain held off and we were able to enjoy ourselves outside for this event. It was nice to see everyone and get caught up. We were also able to get about half of the directories handed out, which saves us money! Woo hoo! Thanks to those who attended and helped us to get these dispersed.

Our main order of business was to approve the budget that your Leadership Team



created at our planning meeting in July. This motion was carried and the budget was approved! We are set and eager to dive into our new year!



Pioneer Receipts turn into cash for our branch

Our first 3 months generated \$79.77!! It is that easy! Don't forget to save your receipts and then send them to:



Pat Elka, PO Box 1406, Mariposa, CA 95338 or

Peggy Moore, PO Box 752, Mariposa, CA 95338

**November 4
Election Day**



We Sponsor Community Forums



Thanksgiving: Tis the season of generosity and requests

Unsolicited GoFundMe pages

AAUW's Tremayne Parquet, Deputy Director of Advancement, and his team reported:

"Recently, it came to light that GoFundMe automatically created more than 1.4 million

"nonprofit" donation pages without the prior knowledge or consent of many organizations... If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to connect@aauw.org with the subject "Unsolicited GoFundMe..."



Donations to local Manna House can offset cessation of SNAP benefits

—Kim Monson

You all have undoubtedly heard that the SNAP benefits that many parents rely on to feed their children will run out of money on November 1st during the government shutdown. Many of our neighbors in Mariposa have been warned that they will not receive these benefits after the first. We all know that food is one of the basic needs for life, so if you are doing okay, perhaps you might consider assisting with this issue by donating to Manna House. They are located at 5127 Charles Street in downtown Mariposa. You can send them a check or shop for them, as I did, and take the food to their facility. Doing this saves them the trouble of shopping and you know that all of your money was spent on food. Here is a list of goods they offer to their clients:



- Cereal
- Soup
- Beans
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Tuna
- Rice
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Spaghetti or chili mix
- Pasta
- Ramen Noodles
- Ground meat
- Eggs
- Cube Margarine
- Milk
- Fresh Fruit
- Carrots
- Potatoes
- Bread
- Dessert
- Dog Food

We will be collecting donations for Manna House at our Holiday Gathering on Dec. 7th. You may bring donations of food or money at that time or you may take them directly to Manna House if you will not be able to attend the gathering. Or perhaps you are in a position to donate some now and some again in December??? 'Tis the season!

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: International Study

Contact [Veronica Gross](#)

Iran—a more detailed look

—Veronica Gross

The AAUW International SIG met at Veronica Gross' home on Tuesday, October 14th, at 3 pm. After indulging in drinks, snacks and small talk, the group settled down to hear Jaye Howe's stimulating overview of Iran, the country of study for 2025-2026. Sue Overstreet brought in copies of several articles to share with the group. The calendar

of presentations was firmed up starting with Christina Oborn on Ancient History and Peggy Shainberg on the Pahlavi era for the next meeting which will be on Tuesday, November 11, 3pm. Other topics such as the Natural History of Iran, Education, Women's Rights, Music and the Arts, and Literature will be presented in the new year.

SIG: Wine

Contact [Anne Dolchanczyk](#)



Can you taste the cherry overtones?

—Jill Rowney

Sunday, October 26, was our first gathering of the season at the lovely home of Georgia Gallagher.

We put our palates to the test— discussing each varietal— checking its aroma, the body, tannin, acidity, finish and complexity. It was certainly educational as well as entertaining as we compared notes on bottles of chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, pinot grigio, malbec, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, and a Bordeaux. Thanks to Georgia, our hostess and Anne who tried to keep us on track.



We Value Education



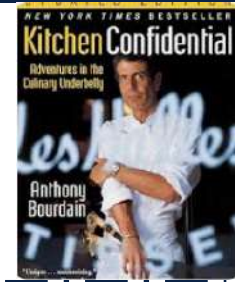
SIG: Book

Contact [Jaye Howes](#)

Our next meeting will be on
Monday, November 10, at 2:00 pm
at the home of Jaye Howes.

We will be discussing

Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly
by Anthony Bourdain



The Wedding People by Alison Espach

Discussion notes by Rick Uebner



Phoebe Stone, an adjunct professor of literature at a Saint Louis university, has flown to the grand Cornwall Inn in Newport, Rhode Island, to fulfill a wish. She has reserved the executive suite in the top floor, not knowing that every other room in the hotel has been booked for a destination wedding. She soon meets the bride-to-be, Lila, who doesn't

want Phoebe to interfere with her fairytale event. Without meeting some of them in person, she begins to make assumptions about them, notably High Bun and Neck Pillow. As the story unfolds, Phoebe meets most of the wedding guests and begins to learn more about several members. She also encounters Juice, a mixed-up pre-teen who recently lost her mother. At times deadly serious, and other times quite comical, the author weaves a tale of self-discovery and relationships.



SIG: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

We were plagued by *A Plague of Angels*

—Dawn Johnson

This play's original title, *Forgiving Typhoid Mary*, might have been more apt, as there were certainly no angels. The story centered on Irish cook Mary Mallon's tangles with the early 20th century New York health system when she was forcibly confined to an institution designed to contain the contagion. Having no symptoms and no belief in germ theory, she refused to believe she had Typhoid, in spite of infecting people at every household where she had worked. She felt unjustly persecuted and wrongly imprisoned. Even seeing the little typhoid bacilli floating around under the microscope did not convince pigheaded Mary. The play examined her right to freedom versus the need to protect

society, as well as the power of religion to help people accept the unacceptable. Unwilling to take responsibility for causing people to die, Mary asserted it was the biblical "plague of angels" sent by God. In our discussion we saw parallels with Covid and AIDS, the treatment of minorities, and the role of science then and now. All in all, it was not a fascinating play and we had no love for dear Mary, but it sparked some good conversation. And, yes, she was released because she promised to wash her hands, yet she continued to spread the disease until finally being quarantined again for the rest of her life. That plagued us.

We Inspire Lifelong Learning

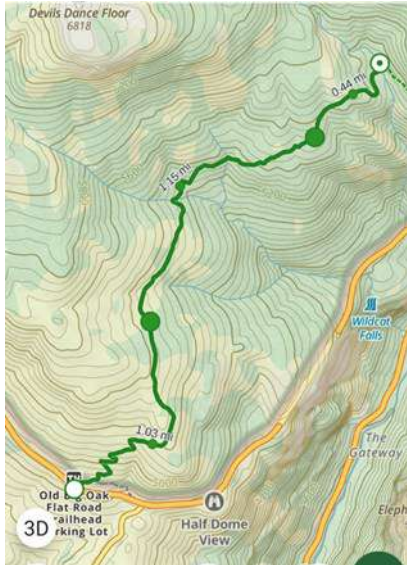


SIG: **Hiking**

Contact Becky Mock

Hiking group heads to Big Oak Flat

Sunday, November 16*



- We will aim to carpool to reduce the number of cars going into Yosemite.
- Dogs cannot participate in this hike.
- Map complements of Peggy Moore
- Round Trip 5.2 miles to Tamarack Creek
- Description of hike: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/california/old-big-oak-flat-road>
- Elevation gain around 900 feet

Additional hikes planned:

- Saturday, January 17, 2026: Exchequer Road (Hornitos)
- Saturday, February 21, 2026: Larrick Ranch with Sierra Foothill Conservancy
- Saturday, March 21, 2026: Briceburg to North Fork
- Saturday, April 18, 2026: William's Peak
- Saturday, May 16, 2026: Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoia in Yosemite NP
- Saturday, June 20, 2026: Merced Grove of Giant Sequoia in Yosemite NP

***If you are not in the hiking group, but would like to participate, please let Becky Mock know (email: starmock@sbcglobal.net).**



Mariposa Native Plants

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

See our website for plant availability



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We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp



AAUW Branch
Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2025
4:00 pm
Mariposa County Library

Members:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • <i>Bonnie Little, Co-Membership</i> | absent |
| • <i>Liz Darcy, Co-Membership</i> | absent |
| • Becky Mock, Co-President | present |
| • Trish Darcy, Co-President/Tech Trek | present |
| • <i>Kim Monson, Member at Large</i> | absent |
| • Jill Rowney, Finance/Newsletter | present |
| • Anne Dolchanczyk, Goodwill Ambassador | present |
| • <i>Mary Jensen, Recording Secretary</i> | absent |
| • Christina Oborn, Member at Large | present |
| • Shelly Gerken, Member at Large | present |

The Meeting was called to order at 3:59

Minutes (*Mary Jensen*)

- Budget approval-approved online and submitted to Jill for the newsletter

Membership Update (*Liz Darcy, Bonnie Little*)

- Update email lists-need to update the Edit group for the newsletter
- 73 members
- Standardize welcome emails-it was decided to create an email that can be sent to all new members when they join with helpful information and welcoming them with upcoming details.

Finance Report (*Jill Rowney*)

- We will be approving both the August and the September reports
- August Income was \$148, \$60 and \$62 for membership for a total of \$270. August Expenses were \$148 and \$60 for membership, \$352 for insurance, \$8.08 for web hosting, and \$120 for Chamber dues for a total of \$688.08. The ending balance is \$7881.82.
- Anne moved to approve the August finance report Shelly seconded. Motion carried.
- September Income was \$222, \$90, and \$62 for membership, and ads for \$100 for a total of \$474. September Expenses were \$222, \$90, and \$15 for membership, \$8.40 for web hosting for a total of \$738.25. The ending balance is \$7617.57.
- Becky moved to approve the September finance report. Trish seconded. Motion carried.

Standing Projects:

- **Backpack Project**-Kim-waiting for next year
- **Tech Trek**-Trish-several girls will be at the ice cream event Sunday
- **Scholarship**-Oct. 2nd meeting Postponed until further notice

We Sponsor Community Forums

(Continued from page 11)

Fundraisers:

- Sandi working on a fundraiser for Summer of 2026. She has scheduled the first planning meeting for Oct. 16th at 3:00 at her house.
- **Pickleball tournament**-on hold
- **Pioneer Receipts** our receipts from June-August were about \$7000 which gives us about \$70. Hopefully, we get more this year as people get used to it. It was mentioned to include Pioneer Pharmacy receipts as well.

Old Business:

- **Event Planning Guide**-passed out the form to those who missed it in Aug.
- **Fall Member Gathering** recap-good turnout and the 2025-2026 Budget was approved by the membership. Directories were handed out.
- **Tech Trek Presentation** at Gold Cup Creamery 2:00 on 10/5-we are all set for this. Kim is expecting us. Girls will get 1 scoop of ice cream. The rest of the family is on their own. Insurance obtained.

New Business:

- **Branch Buzz**-Trish will do this month
- **Pickleball Tournament**-on hold
- **UC Merced Event committee**-Christina contacting Sandi and Dawn to see if they are interested in planning this.
- **Holiday Shopping**-Anne will be contacting Chocolate Soup to verify information and get it to Trish for dissemination to the membership in a timely manner.
- **Holiday Gathering**-Jill will work with Veronica, insurance obtained, decided to do it from 1-4 to avoid driving home in the dark.
- **Preparing for the Golden Years** planning-Trish and Anne will meet on Oct. 14 to plan for these two events.
- **Webpage update**-Once we get more details sketched out for Preparing for the Golden Years we will have Sandi update the page.
- **Newsletter editor**- We will have Dawn, Trish, Becky and Jill be the editors this year.

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We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

Calendar

Date	Event/Program Name	Who's responsible?
Sept	9/25: Member Gathering/ Budget Vote at The Grove House— 4:00pm-6:00pm	Bonnie and Liz
Oct	10/5: Tech Trek presentation with the girls at Gold Cup Creamery 2:00pm 10/12: Cocktails & Convo's at The Grove House 5:00pm Pickleball Tournament (10/25-10/26 (2 days)	Kim Kim
Nov	11/1: Holiday Shopping 11/15: Coffee & Convo's at Cinnamon Roll— 10:00am	Anne TBD
Dec	12/7: Holiday Gathering , time TBD	Jill & Nickel
Jan	1/31: Self Defense Date TBD: "Preparing for the Golden Years	Kim Trish and Anne
Feb	Date TBD: Line Dancing	Trish
Mar	Date TBD: Women's history month	Kim & Trish
Apr	Date TBD: Preparing for the Golden Years	Trish & Anne
May		
June	Date TBD: Annual Meeting	Trish

(Continued from page 12)

Upcoming dates:

- Holiday Shopping 11/1 (Rescheduled the 8th)
- Leadership Meeting 11/6
- Coffee and Covos 11/15
- Holiday Gathering 12/7

Anything else?

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 PM

We Open Eyes

AAUW- Mariposa:

www.aauwmariposa.com

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

AAUW_Mariposa

Leadership Team: 2025-2026

Trish Darcy &	Co-President
Becky Mock	Co-President
Jill Rowney	Finance
Bonnie Little	Co-Membership
Liz Darcy	Co-Membership
Mary Jensen	Recording Secretary
Anne Dolchanczyk	Team Member
Shelly Gerken	Team Member
Kim Monson	Team Member
Christina Oborn	Team Member

Project Chairs/Coordinators

Backpack Project	Kim Monson & Rebecca Swisher
Fundraising	Sandi Gabe
Good Will Ambassador	Anne Dolchanczyk
Newsletter Editor	Jill Rowney
Programs/Events	open
Publicity	Sandi Gabe & Dawn Johnson
Scholarship	Liz Darcy
Social Media	Sandi Gabe & Dawn Johnson
Tech Trek	Trish Darcy & Barbara Silva
Website	Sandi Gabe

AAUW <https://aauw.org/>AAUW California <http://www.aauw-ca.org/>

*underlined names are hyperlinked to their email addresses

We Value Education

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