



Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia



Mistletoe
Phoradendron leucarpum

Sierra Outpost

A time to celebrate friends and share our good fortune

—Trish Darcy

The date of our annual holiday party, December 7th from 1-4 pm, is fast approaching. It will be held at the home of Veronica and Dan Gross who have graciously offered their home to us again this year. You have received an Evite (check spam/junk), but you may also reply by email (tbdarcy1@gmail.com). We ask that you bring a savory or a sweet treat to share. Also, remember to take your serving tray home with you. Please do not leave those for our hosts to deal with. Non-alcohol drinks will be provided, but, if you prefer, you may BYOB!

Each year we collect donations for a local charity. For the last several years we have collected donations for Mountain Crisis. This year we

recognize the need that our local community has for food, so we have switched our focus to Manna House. Although SNAP benefits have been reinstated, there is still a big need. There is always a need! Government employees may be back to work, but being without a paycheck for 40+ days will put many behind and it will take time for them to recover. A gift of food would be greatly appreciated. Manna House also accepts monetary donations, so you may bring cash or a check to donate as well. Sometimes money donations can buy more food because Manna House can purchase in bulk allowing them to get more for their money.

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If you wish to donate actual items, here is a list of what they can use:

- Cereal
- Soup
- Beans
- Rice
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Bread
- Ramen
- Tomato Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Goods
- Diapers
- Dog/Cat Food

Events Calendar

2025

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



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



2026

Jan 8 **Leadership Team Meeting:** 4:00pm, Mariposa County Library

Jan 12 **SIG—Book:** 2:00pm, home of Jaye Howes

Jan 13 **SIG—International Study:** 3:00pm, home of Veronica Gross

Jan 17 **SIG—Hiking:** Exchequer Road, Hornitos

Jan 31 **Self-Defense workshop:** Details to come



Chance to meet, greet, and share ideas (and opinions!)

—Becky Mock

On Saturday, November 15, several members of AAUW met at the Cinnamon Roll Bakery & Café. The gathering provided an opportunity for attendees to enjoy coffee, delicious food, and engaging conversation in a relaxed and friendly environment. Discussion highlights included:

- Favorite Thanksgiving Side Dishes: Members shared their favorite dishes. Candied yams or sweet potatoes appeared to be a crowd favorite.
- Fire Insurance and Safety: The group discussed

various aspects of fire insurance, including the definition of defensible space and the effectiveness of the Fire Wise program.

- Additional topics: Other subjects, such as the evolving laws regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), were also explored during the conversation.

This event is a wonderful opportunity for members to connect, share experiences, and discuss a wide range of topics. Everyone left feeling enriched by the great company and meaningful discussions.



Left to right: Sue Beatty, Peggy Moore, Kim Monson, Pat Elka, Iris Chynoweth, Kathy Chappell, Rick Uebner, Kris Casto, Jetty Uebner, Anne Dolchanczyk (Becky Mock behind the camera lens)

Membership



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. RSVP to the invite or email Trish Darcy.



Holiday shopping spree—locally

—Trish Darcy

On Saturday, November 8th, nine of us gathered to shop the local businesses that were all decorated for the holidays. Five of us were members and the others were guests that came along for the fun. We started at the Cinnamon Roll Bakery and Cafe to grab fuel for the morning. Next we hit up Chocolate Soup to

discover their wonderland of holiday gifts. Most of us spent a good long time there and then headed out in smaller groups to check out Brick Wall, Anahatta, The Mariposa Market Place, and more. We ended the day at The Local Grape where we had a bowl of Ramen and a glass of wine. Great fun!



We Inspire Lifelong Learning

Membership



Ever-popular self-defense workshop returns

Back by popular demand! Plans are in the making for another self-defense

workshop. Last year, 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. After a very productive practice session, 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.



SELF-DEFENSE WORKSHOP COMING SOON!

WHEN: January 31

Details forthcoming



Home tour— planning for 2026

Sandi Gabe is planning another gala fundraising event. We're looking at

having another home tour— featuring homes in our area that have some amazing features. So if you know of homes with spectacular “wow”

factors, and owners would be amenable to sharing their space with the community for an afternoon, please let Sandi (sandi.gabe@hotmail.com) know. Hang onto your hats and be ready to be “wowed.”

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

AAUW: National

It's My Vote! kickoff

In November, AAUW is kicking off *It's My Vote!*, our nonpartisan voter engagement campaign. To amplify this work, AAUW is pleased to announce that we are a Power Partner with the League of Women Voters (LWV) on **Unite & Rise 8.5** — Unite and Rise 8.5 is a nationwide nonpartisan, non-violent initiative of the LWV that seeks to engage 8.5 million people in civic education,

community activation, and voter turnout support. Through *It's My Vote*, AAUW will collaborate with local partners to host non-partisan events, share clear voting information, and connect policy to real life, while honoring each organization's strengths, brand, and non-partisan guidelines. [Learn more about the partnership and how you can engage.](#)



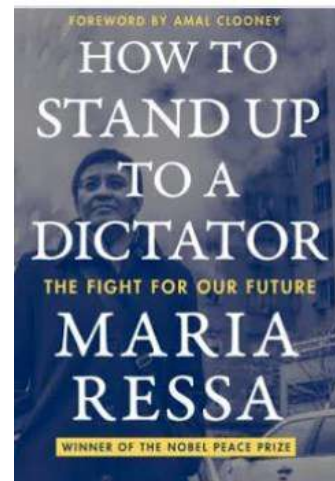
AAUW California

Relevant Read Recommendation

How to Stand Up to a Dictator: The Fight for Our Future, by Maria Ressa (2022).

Recommended by Marty McKnew, AAUW California Governance Chair and Parliamentarian.

Marty describes the book as “[a] Nobel Peace Prize winner and international journalist writes about her struggles in the Philippines against censorship and authoritarianism.”



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

We Sponsor Community Forums

AAUW California

Two minute guide to spotting scam emails

—Michelle Baer

You may have received this notice from AAUW California Communications Chair, Michelle Baer, already, but it is worth reviewing.

Dear (AAUW member),

I have been advised by several members that earlier this month, one or more scam emails were sent that some members may have thought came from AAUW (but did not), and caused concern. Scam email senders are getting more clever, but a few quick checks can help identify suspicious emails. Read on for more information and tips on spotting scam versus legitimate emails, and steps to take if you've spotted a scam message.

Step 1: Check who it's really from

- You may need to **tap, click, or hover over the "From" name** to see the full address.
- Make sure the **domain** (the part after the "@") matches the actual organization.
- Example: siteadmin@aauw-ca.org is legitimate; siteadmin@aauw-support.com or aauw-members@yahoo.com is not.
- Watch for sneaky look-alikes: amaz0n.com (zero instead of "o"), aauw-help.org instead of aauw.org or aauw-ca.org.

Step 2: Scan for common red flags

- Urgent messages: "You must read this attachment/click this link right away!"
- Unexpected offers or prizes: "Click here to redeem."
- Requests for personal info or money, especially gift cards or wire transfers.
- Links and attachments you weren't expecting. Hover your mouse over links (or press and hold on mobile) to preview the real web address. *If you're unsure whether the mes-*

sage is legitimate, don't click if it looks unfamiliar or is shortened (like bit.ly).

- Spelling or grammatical mistakes or unusual wording. This isn't always present, but it is a clue if spotted.

Step 3: What to do

If the message appears to be a scam

- Do not respond to the email.
- Do not click links or open attachments.
- Report it as spam/phishing in your email program.
- Delete it.

If you are *not sure* whether the message is a scam or not

- Contact the purported originating agency through established channels to determine whether it is legitimate. Use an email, website, or phone number you have used before or know to be correct.

A quick summary of the high points:

- Look past the sender's display name: verify the full email address and domain.
- Be wary of urgency, prizes, and requests for personal info.
- Do not click on links or open attachments unless you're comfortable that the message is legitimate.
- Delete suspicious messages.

I hope this information is helpful. It's a rough world out there, but with a bit of knowledge and good habits, you can keep yourself safe.

Warm regards,

Michelle Baer

AAUW California Director, Communications Chair
communications@aauw-ca.org

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: Play Reading

Contact [Dawn Johnson](#)

And the verdict is...

—Dawn Johnson

Six angry women recently gathered to read *12 Angry Men*. Employing your advanced knowledge of higher math, you'll see that each reader had to read two parts, which led to some people talking to themselves. For some of us, that's normal.

The play was a powerful 1954 drama about 12 jurors deciding the fate of a teenage boy from some undetermined minority group who has been accused of murder.

We gave it rave reviews.

The jurors, though stereotyped, brought their differing life experiences, biases, and prejudices

to the deliberation, creating tension, accusations, and arguments. But one lone man challenged the jury's initial rush to judgment. He made the others question the evidence to look for reasonable doubt, ultimately swinging the unanimous verdict from guilty to not guilty.

It was never revealed if the accused boy actually did it or not. It wasn't Perry Mason. The verdict—and the play—were more a judgement about the strength of our justice system itself.

Oh, and we also ate Jill Rowney's famous zucchini bread, which was given a unanimous verdict of AMAZING.



SIG: Hiking

Contact [Becky Mock](#)

Hiking group heads to Exchequer Road

—Becky Mock

November's hike was canceled due to weather. Next up is a hike along Exchequer Road in Hornitos on Saturday, January 17. Contact [Becky Mock](#) for more details.



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See our website for plant availability

We Value Education



SIG: Book

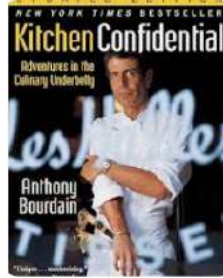
Contact [Jaye Howes](#)

We're taking a hiatus for December.
Our **next meeting will be on**
Monday, January 12, at 2:00 pm
at the home of Jaye Howes.
Book selection TBD.

Kitchen Confidential

by Anthony Bourdain

Discussion notes by Jaye Howes



Forever fascinating to talk about and read about, Anthony Bourdain was the subject and the author we discussed at our November meeting. The book is "Kitchen Confidential" that he wrote in 2000. Bourdain came from a privileged background with well-educated parents who provided a home with books, travel, and love. He spent many summers in his youth in France where he learned the love of food, especially oysters. Yet, in spite of this early life, he chose to forego college after two years and instead chose

to devote his time to professional cooking. And this choice led him into a further life of travel and more writing. From this book, we learned not to order fish on a Monday because restaurants order their fresh fish on Thursdays. We learned that the most demeaning thing a chef has to do is prepare brunch, and we learned that successful kitchens are run like the military, with the chef, of course, being the general. Bourdain wrote with a commanding style and vivid descriptions of professional kitchens and the salty language used in these kitchens.



SIG: International Study

Contact [Veronica Gross](#)

Iran— a bit of history

—Veronica Gross

The International SIG members met on Tuesday, November 11. Iran is the country of study. Christina Oborn gave a presentation on Ancient History of Iran part I followed by Peggy Shainberg's talk on the Pahlavi era (1929 –

1979). The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13 when Peggy Moore will be speaking on the natural history of Iran.

We Inspire Lifelong Learning



AAUW Branch
Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2025
4:00 pm
Mariposa County Library

Members:

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

The Meeting was called to order at 3:57 pm

Fundraisers:

- Sandi and Dawn 2026 Fundraiser: Sandi attended the meeting with their agenda. They need to know how much money and when the funds are needed for the next year in addition to the \$2000 for back packs and \$5000 for Tech Trek. The last Fundraiser made just less than \$10,000 and declining membership is presenting a monetary problem. The following challenges were discussed in choosing a venue: The fairgrounds is booked except for July which is available for the month both in and out of doors. Indoors is preferable because it should be cooler during the typically hot month. Besides the heat, the heightened fire danger needs to be considered as a fire camp is set up during a fire which would cause the event to be cancelled. It was suggested the Fundraiser could be pushed to Feb. 20, 2027 which would still work to fund the Tech Trek deadline mid-March. Other possible dates discussed were March 14th or 21st, 2027.
- The Camp Event is not working out. Sandi and Dawn are working on other ideas.
- Pickleball tournament: spring might work, Kim has the medals. Should providing refreshments be considered? It was suggested to charge \$30 for each event, possibly more for doubles than singles. Approximately 25 participants should be expected over a weekend. Kim will check on costs and advise in December.
- Pioneer Receipts: \$79.77 received year to date so \$80 every two months would be a reasonable goal. It was recognized there is competition from many groups.

Minutes (Mary Jensen)

- The minutes were approved by email for the October 2nd meeting and submitted to Jill for the newsletter.

We Send Girls to Science/Math Camp

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Membership Update (Liz Darcy, Bonnie Little)

- Number update: no change from last month's total of 73 members
- All remaining Directories were mailed out and positive responses were received
- Standardize welcome email - Bonnie and Liz drafted and Bonnie read a letter. It was suggested AAUW links and links to the Newsletter be included with the emailed letter. New members will still need a hard copy of the Branch Directory. Jill needs short bios on new members for the newsletter.

Finance Report (Jill Rowney)

- Jill submitted and emailed the Treasurer's Report for review. There were no questionable expenses or unusual income. Beginning balance of \$7,617.57 added to October income of \$280.77 less expenses \$248.80 = Ending Balance and Fiscal Year to Date: \$7,649.54. Trish moved to accept the report, it was seconded by Kim and the motion was carried.

Standing Projects:

- Backpack Project-Kim: has 3 backpacks left from 72 last year. Students like some better than others but overall are happy to receive them.
- Tech Trek-Trish: getting ready to gear up
- Scholarship-Liz: We are putting it on the back burner for now and the budgeted money can be used for Tech Trek.

Old Business:

- Tech Trek Presentation Recap: wasn't well attended by members but the girls were awesome. One parent stressed how much it was appreciated, another remarked on the positive change in their girl. The girls were unable to think of anything to say that was negative except minor complaints about the food.
- UC Merced Event committee: needs to be set up. It was suggested that Merced Community College be included for exposure to trades, agriculture, etc.
- Should we do a "Dinner with a Professional"
- Holiday Shopping: this weekend
- Holiday Gathering: Dec.7, focus for donations has shifted to Manna House (monetary or shelf stable foods is suggested, see newsletter for list).
- Preparing for the Golden Years planning: in early stages
- Webpage update: add "Preparing for the Golden Years": additional content needed; dates, location, topics, speakers

New Business:

- Branch Buzz-Mary: Per discussion with a member who received a scam email, include a notice to beware of spam/scam emails from AAUW.
- Discussion topics for "Golden Years": placing people in facilities, attorney discussion about estate planning, cremation & burial (compost option), Area 12 agency on aging. We are looking to secure a venue.

(Continued on page 12)

We Sponsor Community Forums

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 & Convos at The Grove House 5:00pm Pickleball Tournament (10/25-10/26 (2 days)	Kim Kim
Nov	11/1: Holiday Shopping 11/15: Coffee & Convos at Cinnamon Roll— 10:00am	Anne TBD
Dec	12/7: Holiday Gathering , 1:00-4:00pm	Jill & Nickel
Jan	1/31: Self Defense (needs insurance) \$15 instead of \$10 (include female deputies)	Kim
Feb	Date? Line Dancing	Trish
Mar	Date? Women's History: Gail Dreifus wants to participate— idea, advances of the 70's?	Kim
Apr	4/22: Preparing for the Golden Years	Trish & Anne
May	5/20: Preparing for the Golden Years Date? Election panning (see below)	Trish & Anne Kim
June	Date? Annual Meeting	Trish, maybe Jill

(Continued from page 11)

Upcoming Dates:

- Holiday Shopping 11/8
- Coffee and Convos 11/15
- Leadership Team Meeting 12/4
- Holiday Gathering 12/7
- Anything else? Kim: Elections for supervisors Districts 1 and 3 are coming up. There should also be hospital board positions up for election. Should state assembly or senate candidates be included? Look at early May
- Trish: reminder - fundraisers require insurance and planning forms are available online

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20PM

We Provide Opportunities for Women to Reach Full Potential

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 Open Eyes

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