

## Notes from the Presidents: Cathy Lovell & Nancy Adalian

What a beautiful setting for our annual Holiday Tea! Thanks so much to Co-President-Elect Marilyn Rankin and her husband for sharing their beautiful home with us for the event. The weather was perfect and so were the refreshments thanks to Marsha Brooks-Smith. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we received nearly \$600 to be contributed to AAUW Funds and many, many items to be donated to the Senior Center. We always look forward to this annual festivity.

Our next general meeting is January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lamp Liter Inn Conference Center at 11:30 for lunch. Our speaker, author and Fresno Bee writer Armen D. Bacon. will prove most interesting. Please see the reservation information listed on the front page of the newsletter and contact our program committee by the due date. That always makes life simpler for our hard-working team. Reminder: our board meeting will follow right after.

Believe it or not, our year is already half gone. In the coming months we will continue to have interesting and inspiring programs, recruit new members, review and revise our policies and procedures and bylaws, interview and reward worthy COS scholars, raise funds with another fabulous book sale and seek new officers to continue our quest to meet our goals toward equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive change.

Welcome 2017!

Cathy Lovell and Nancy Adalian

## JANUARY AAUW Meeting

- DATE: JANUARY 18TH
- TIME: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
- The Lamp Liter  
Visalia, CA
- MENU: Chef's Salad, Chicken Tostado, Chinese Chicken Salad, or Vegie Salad. Lunch includes coffee, tea and dessert
- PRICE: \$18.00
- PLEASE include lunch choice on your check
- Orders need to be received by FRIDAY, JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

MAIL CHECK TO Susan Mathews  
3933 West Woodside Court  
Visalia, CA 93291

PHONE RESERVATIONS: 559.739.1449

EMAIL: [smathews18@gmail.com](mailto:smathews18@gmail.com)

Dear Friends, I am so excited to introduce our speaker for January 18th. A beautiful woman inside and out, Armen Bacon. Armen writes (and lives) with uncensored passion and sense of urgency. Her words stir the soul and have been praised as "pulling us a little closer to each other."

Armen has a passion for traveling and writing. She is a storyteller and a memory keeper. She made her authorial debut with the powerful memoir, "Griefland - An Intimate Portrait of Love, Loss and Unlikely Friendship." Her second book, "My Name is Armen - A life is Column Inches contains decade's of Fresno Bee and other essays.

Armen graduated from CSU, Fresno, and was most recently honored as the 2015 "Top Dog" Distinguished Alumna of Fresno State. Since 2014, Armen has been an Op Ed columnist for The Fresno Bee.

I cannot say enough good things about Armen. You just have to come and experience it yourself! Her speech is titled "I Dare You to Live Your Life." Bring \$20.00 in case you want to buy one of her fabulous books.  
Love, Susan Mathews



## Cut Out and Save

### 2016 AAUW Programs

- **Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, 11:30 am, Lunch** – Lamp Liter Inn, Speaker: Armen D. Bacon, Author and Writer for the Fresno Bee
- **Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 11:30 am, Lunch** – Lamp Liter Inn. Speaker: Battered Women’s Shelter
- **March 16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 11:30 am, Lunch** – Lamp Liter Inn, Speaker: Cynthia Norvall, COS Food Pantry
- **April 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Book Sale** Sequoia Mall
- **Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 11:30 am, Lunch** – Lamp Liter Inn, Speaker: Jenny Zeeb, topic, The Power of Creativity
- **May 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 11:30 Potluck Lunch**, The Lakes Club House, AAUW Scholarship Award



The Christmas Tree raffles and silent auction raised \$575. Thanks to all who participated.



*AAUW wants to know what your plans are for January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. (Inauguration Day) If you want to let them know, click on the link or copy and paste it in your browser.*

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfR-M4h\\_xsx-Udi4rbTxLxvmy-OXQU4t568aHP4Cd4D3GEwug/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfR-M4h_xsx-Udi4rbTxLxvmy-OXQU4t568aHP4Cd4D3GEwug/viewform)

Did you know that the Visalia Sequoia Branch of AAUW has a special committee designed just for bringing some Sunshine into the lives of our members? If you know of one of our members who is ill, having surgery, going through some medical difficulties, could use a special boost or has lost a loved one, our Sunshine Committee will send along a card to let that person know she is being thought about by her friends in our Association!

Email me @: [gregren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gregren@sbcglobal.net) or call one of the following numbers:  
559) 627-3085 (home)  
(559) 260-9646 (cell)

I check both emails and phone messages often. ☺

Renella Smith



Book Sorters needs paper bags like these or the traditional paper grocery bag. If you have any, please bring them to the meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

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# Do You Have A Special Interest

**Coffee and California Concerns is:**

*Monday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am.*

**Topic: Self-Help Enterprises--An Excursion!**

**Team: Susan Kreps & Carol Glass**

**Speaker: Tom Collishaw, Self-Help's CEO**

**Venue: Highland Gardens' community center,**  
2423 N. Highland St., Visalia (between Ferguson &  
Riggin, off 63)

We're all familiar with the  
name, Self-Help Enterprises,



but many of us don't have a solid idea about the work they do and the crucial humanitarian role they play in our community. Started locally by Quakers, their local low-cost housing model has been replicated nationwide. Their very first project was in Goshen. (They do work in other areas, such as clean-water access, but we will be focusing on housing at this meeting.) We're fortunate to have two members of C&CC with connections to Self-Help: Susan Kreps is chair of their Board of Directors, and Carol Glass was their controller for 22 years.

Susan has arranged for us to get an up-close look at how this project assists low-income families toward the American Dream. In fact, we'll be meeting at the site of their latest effort: Highland Gardens, a 36-unit apartment building that opened just in time for families to move in before Thanksgiving 2016. We are fortunate that Self-Help's CEO, Tom Collishaw, will be explaining it all to us. This is an exciting opportunity. Hope to see you there!

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**Great Decisions** starts Tuesday, January 31 (7-9:00 pm), in the John Muir Bldg. at C.O.S. Room 101. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THIS INTERESTING DISCUSSION GROUP.

**The First topic is: The Future of Europe**

The Briefing Books arrive in January. Those who ordered through Maile will be notified as soon as they come in for pick-up at the Library. This group

order is sold out, but the books can still be ordered online from the Foreign Policy Assn. directly, at [www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/](http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/).

Contacts:

Maile Melkonian (802-3315)

Carol Finney (733-1198)

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**Refresher Bridge** is meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the home of Rosemary Jackson. Call Marsha Roberts at 733-8784 if you're interested in joining the group.

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**Knit Wits** meets at Panera every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Please join us if you like to knit, crochet, embroider, etc.

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**Gorgeous Garden Gals** will meet on January 13, 2017 at 1:00 at Louise Ford's for a demonstration of flower arranging by the staff of Creative Flowers. Please let Louise at 732-8951 know if you are attending so that we will have enough chairs.

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**Traveling Troupers** will be meeting in January for a planning meeting. If you are interested in traveling and would like to be included in this meeting, call Carol Dias at 559.924.7944.

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Last month the Gorgeous Garden Gals had a special meeting at the Space Yoga Center, taught by Emily Lucientto, daughter of one of our members. It was great fun and there was a good turnout.



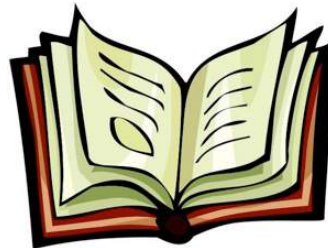
CALLING ALL SECTION  
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ANYONE WITH A  
CAMERA/PHONE:



THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR IS ASKING  
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MEETING WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE A  
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A PARAGRAPH ABOUT THE IMAGE. IT  
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OF THE EMAIL.*

THANK YOU.

BETSY  
[BETSYGC@ME.COM](mailto:BETSYGC@ME.COM)  
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,



For more information about our local  
AAUW group, please click on the link  
below.

[Visalia Sequoia AAUW](#)

or type in:

<http://visaliasequoia-ca.aauw.net>

*Have you liked us on Facebook yet? **Look  
for the holiday tea pictures.** We would  
love for you to add stories or pictures  
from an event or anything you think our  
group would enjoy.*

[www.facebook.com/AAUWVisaliaSequoia](http://www.facebook.com/AAUWVisaliaSequoia)

Remember to refer to your directory  
for program dates and guides,  
interest groups, committees, and  
email addresses and phone numbers  
of all the members.

