

**Notes from the Presidents:
Sherri Bentley & Nancy Adalian**

We had a great turnout in September for our first meeting of the new season. Many thanks to Amy Shuklian, our new Tulare County Supervisor, who as usual provided us with lots of information about what's going on in our area in her easy and humorous way.

October brings us two important events: our semi-annual Book Sale at Sequoia Mall and another great speaker Jim Willwerth, former Time Magazine reporter, author and retired Cal Poly Pomona professor. Known as an adamant supporter of the free press in our democracy, Jim will be telling us of some of his experiences in Viet Nam at the height of the conflict there and later as a reporter in Central America and beyond. This timely event at Café 210 on October 12th at 5:00 p.m. is open to the public and you are encouraged to bring family and friends to hear this important message.

Book Sale is coming on October 18-23! Again, we have many, many books sorted and readied by our faithful Monday Book Sorters. If you have not yet signed up to participate, please contact Susan Cunningham (625-3667) to get on the schedule. It takes all of us to make the sale a success so we can continue giving scholarships for Expanding Your Horizons (4-8 grade), Tech Trek (7th grade), and COS students transferring to complete degrees. Working at the sale is a great time to publicize our branch as well as get to know fellow members better. See you at the sale!

Nancy Adalian and Sherri Bentley

October AAUW Meeting

- **DATE:** Thurs., Oct. 12, 2017
- **TIME:** 5:00pm – 7:00
- **Where:** Café 210, 201 W Center St, Visalia, CA 93291
- **Speaker:** Jim Willwerth
- **Topic:** The Free Press: Fake News/Alternative Facts
- **Cost:** no cost but donations are welcome.

Jim is a retired journalism teacher from Cal Poly, Pomona, and author of several books. He will lecture on “fake news” and “alternative facts” and explain how these terms can undermine the work of journalists. He was a Time Magazine journalist for 33 years. During this tenure he covered seven different wars overseas. Willwerth will discuss his own career and that of journalists who perished while reporting the news in Cambodia, Vietnam and Central America. Through the stories of those who gave their life for watchdog journalism, Willwerth will examine the importance of reporting and how it serves as a system of checks and balances for readers.



***Cut Out
and
Save***



2017-2018 Programs

- **Oct. 12th, Thurs., 5:00pm, Café 210**, Speaker: Jim Willwerth, Topic: The Free Press
- **Oct. 18-23rd, Book Sale Sequoia Mall**. Call Susan Cunningham, 625-3667 to help
- **Nov. 9th, Thurs., 11:30 am, Left of Center Café**, Speaker: Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park Ranger, Topic: Our Forests
- **Dec. 9th, Sat., Holiday Tea**, 2:00-4:00 pm, Home of Carol Sonier, 2544 Border Links Drive
- **Jan. 18th, Thurs., 5:00pm, Lamp Liter Inn**, Speaker: Lindy Gligorijevic, Tulare County DA Chief Investigator, Topic: Human Trafficking
- **Feb. 15th, Thurs., Visalia Fox Theater 11:30am.**, Speaker: Erin Olm-Shipman, CEO Topic: History & Tour of Fox Theater
- **Mar. 15th, Thurs., Left of Center Café, 11:30 am**, Speaker: Fawn Pender, Topic: Women's Fashion History
- **Apr. 12th, Thurs., 11:30 am, Left of Center Cafe**, Speaker: Mae Vang, Topic: Being An Inspiration to Your Community
- **Apr. 18-23rd, Book Sale Sequoia Mall**
- **May 10th, Thurs., 4:00-6:00pm, Congregation B'nai David**, Scholarship Reception

***"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful."
- Malala Yousafzai***

**Please
Update Your Yearbook**

Karen **Feezell** - karenefezell@outlook.com.

Phillis A Coring 734-8028

Nancy Holmes - 747-2918

Lisa Salazar, **Insurance**
University: **Cal Poly Pomona**
Salazarlisa1@comcast.net

Cynthia Thorburn new address: **1523 N. Mendonca St, Visalia 93291**

We have two new members:

Susan Harrell -Retired Teacher
932 W Howard Ave, Visalia 93277
(559)967-1992
Sharrell55@gmail.com
UCSB 1977 MA in Education

Janis Lehmann - Retired School Principal
2543 E Princeton Ave, Visalia 93292
(550) 300-2313
psychlehmann@att.net

Become a Two-Minute Activist

As a Two-Minute Activist, you will receive email notices when your advocacy is most needed. AAUW will provide all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, write letters to the editor for your local newspapers, contact your state legislators about important issues and more. You can choose to do any of the above activities to promote AAUW priorities for women. Please go to www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/ and sign up.

Joanne Dudley, Public Policy Chair

Special Interest Groups

Garden Gals: October 13, Oak Patch Vegetables
Come visit Oak Patch and see how they grow the many kinds of lettuce and vegetables for Farmers Market and local restaurants! We will order box lunches for a picnic under the trees. **Call Karen Feezell now or Carol Finney after Oct 1.**

Book Sale October 18-23. If you haven't signed up to work a shift or two, email or call Susan Cunningham. gicasusan@gmail.com, (559) 901-5545

BOOKWORMS: The Bookworms will be meeting on Friday October 6 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Hill. The book selection for October is "A Fall of Marigolds" by Susan Meissner. Anyone is welcome to join us. Questions? Call Kathy Oldershaw 909-1333 (cell) or 733-7472 (home)



KNIT WITS Welcome All: Whether you're a beginner or one who's been knitting or crocheting for years, you're invited to join the Knit Wits. We meet every Tuesday morning from 10-noon at Paneras. We share ideas, patterns, knowledge, and support each other's efforts. We are a very informal group. No need to call in advance, just drop by to see what we're all about. If you want more information, either text or call Cathy Lovell, 287-2982.

COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS: Monday, October 2, 10:15, Topic: "Local Grassroots Activism"

Presenter: Presenter: Valerie Ehrlich, a new member of our group, is well known to many of us for her dedicated work keeping loosely connected, grassroots-y folks informed about opportunities for civic action in our community. She definitely has her ear to the ground! How is organizing done? What motivates people? What's going on in our community? How do passion and information get turned into action? Come find out!

Team: Carol Glass and Terry Cornelius

Venue: Carol's home: 3615 W. Mill Creek Dr. (north of west Main St.)

Continued :

Monday, October 16, 10:15

Topic: Homelessness (tentative)

Presenter & Venue: TBA

Great Decisions: Interested in foreign policy and international issues? This is the section for you! We meet 8 times, January to early May, Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:00, at C.O.S. The topics are:

- * The Waning of Pax Americana?
 - * Russia's Foreign Policy
 - * China/America: The New Geopolitical Equation
 - * Media and Foreign Policy
 - * Turkey: A Partner in Crisis
 - * U.S. Global Engagement and the Military
 - * South Africa's Fragile Democracy
 - * Global Health: Progress and Challenges
- Reading 10-12 pages from a well researched Briefing Book is required to prep for each session. Order your book now and save -cost \$23 each. Make checks out to "Maile Melkonian." (Books can also be ordered on-line for \$25 plus shipping.)
Contacts: Carol Finney (733-1198) Maile Melkonian (802-23315)

ATTENTION

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

*Due to the retirement of Dona Meinhardt from the position of "Lifestyle-Book-Box-Retriever", we need someone to **pick up books from the Lifestyle book box on Sundays**. If you go to Lifestyle on Sundays or live by (or not) please consider doing this. We could really use your help. This job could be shared with a couple of people.*

If you can, let Sandy know and she will have a key for you to use.

Home: (559) 732-2450

Cell: (559) 936-1891

Email: sandraparmelly@hotmail.com Dona cannot do this job any more, and hopefully one of us can check the box on Sundays. Others such as Sandy, Margo, and Pam take care of the box on other days.

It is really important to find more volunteers for this really crucial job. Please help!



Urge Congress to Pass the Dream Act of 2017

For the past five years, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided nearly 800,000 recipients the ability to attend school, go to work, and contribute to our economy without fear of deportation. But with a simple swipe of the pen, President Trump has [moved toward ending the DACA program](#), taking with it the opportunity for thousands of immigrants to achieve the American Dream.

AAUW is proud to be part of a community that fights for the civil rights of *all* Americans. That's why we're joining with thousands of civil rights advocates this week to urge Congress to stand up for Dreamers and DACA recipients by passing the Dream Act of 2017 without amendment.

[Join us by urging your members of Congress to take action!](#)

The Dream Act of 2017 is a bipartisan bill that would provide a path to legal status for undocumented young individuals who came here before the age of 18 and who graduate from U.S. high schools and attend college, enter the workforce, or enlist in a military program. The impact of this legislation has the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of immigrants across the country, specifically providing immigrant women and girls with the educational and career opportunities that generations of Americans have relied on to achieve economic prosperity. The ball is now in Congress's court and they must act quickly.

http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=23190

Remember back on October 8, 2016 we had a speaker named Aileen Rizo. Here is an update on *her* case:

LAF-supported plaintiff [Aileen Rizo's pay equity case](#) is returning to the appeals court in California for a full hearing.

Rizo originally filed suit against the Fresno County Office of Education when she learned that her employer was paying a male colleague more merely on the basis of prior salary, even though Rizo had more experience than he had. On April 27 a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit handed down a decision in *Rizo*. The panel held that using prior salary alone to calculate current wages can be permissible under the Equal Pay Act as a "factor other than sex" if the defendant shows that its use of prior salary was reasonable and followed a business policy.

AAUW joined an [amicus brief](#) that supported Rizo's petition for rehearing en banc (in front of all of the judges of a court rather than only a selected panel) and urged the Ninth Circuit to reconsider. The Ninth Circuit granted Rizo's petition on August 29. We continue to support Rizo through our legal case support program as her case moves through various stages of the judicial system. We will keep you updated on Rizo's case and those of [our other LAF plaintiffs](#).

What does en banc mean?

After a three-judge panel order is issued a party can seek rehearing with the full panel or bypass that process and seek review by the U.S. Supreme Court. In *Rizo v. Fresno* the plaintiff's lawyers successfully asked for the former. In

an average year the Ninth Circuit entertains approximately 1,500 requests by parties for rehearing en banc and hears 15–25 of those cases. That means Rizo's situation is relatively unusual.





Did you know that besides the scholarships to COS students continuing to a four-year university, that our local AAUW branch sends young girls to Fresno State for a week of Tech Trek Camp?

Tech Trek is a weeklong academic residential camp featuring **hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)**. Instructors include credentialed middle and high school teachers and professional women in STEM related careers. All camps are **located on a university or college campus** where campers are immersed in the full campus experience.

At each camp, girls receive an in-depth, week-long course focused on a STEM subject; at others, each girl is also provided with a selection of rotating labs designed to explore individual specialties more deeply.

Field trips and workshops encourage maximum interaction and learning. An important part of the camp is the university campus experience. Campers have the opportunity to **live the life of a college student** for the week. They will live in the dorm, have a roommate (a fellow camper) they've never met, share community bathrooms, eat in the dining commons, and explore the campus area under the careful supervision of camp staff. They also interact with women who serve as role models, introducing them to a wide range of STEM academic and career possibilities.

See us at <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-trek/>



6/16/17

Dear Visalia-Sequoia Branch,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go to Tech Trek 2017. I really enjoyed my Circuits class. We made actual circuit boards that make noise w/ blinking lights. I also enjoyed all the different activities & field trips. My favorite trip that we went on was to the planetarium because I learned about the possibility of aliens. The talent show was a great experience to show off our silliness as a group. I also got to see other special talents such as singing, instruments, dancing, sign language, etc. Tech Trek gave me more information about the fact of equality between men & women. Thank you for this unforgettable experience that helped me explore the STEM field.

- Nana Chong

Dear AAUW Visalia Branch,

Thank you so much for sending me to Tech Trek! I had such an amazing time here. Everyone here is amazing from my dorm mom and counselor to my new friends. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to help me with my paperwork, so this amazing experience could be possible. Before coming to camp, I was very nervous and I was regretting for agreeing to coming. But after spending a week learning what I love and being around girls my age, I would never regret a second of this amazing experience. Me and my new friends are going to keep in touch in the future. I also plan on coming back in the future as a dorm mom or a counselor.

Sincerely, Norey Big

Bring A Friend



Visalia-Sequoia Inc. (CA) Branch

**Fake News?
Alternative Facts?**

**Invites you to join us at
Cafe 210
to hear noted
journalist Jim Willwerth**

*Jim is a retired journalism teacher from Cal Poly, Pomona, and author of several books. He will lecture on "fake news" and "alternative facts" and explain how these terms can undermine the work of journalists. He was a *Time Magazine* journalist for 33 years. During this tenure he covered seven different wars overseas. Willwerth will discuss his own career and that of journalists who perished while reporting the news in Cambodia, Vietnam and Central America. Through the stories of those who gave their life for watchdog journalism, Willwerth will examine the importance of reporting and how it serves as a system of checks and balances for readers.*

**Thursday,
October 12, 5:00 PM**

Cafe 210 • 210 W. Center St • Visalia, Ca

*AAUW empowers women and girls by
promoting opportunity for literacy,
equality and education.*

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

Have you liked us on Facebook yet? We are posting pictures and information that you might want to know about on our AAUW Visalia Facebook page. Please join the group. Plus we would love for you to add stories or pictures from an event or anything you think our group would enjoy to the page too.

[AAUW Visalia/Sequoia Facebook page](#)

**Stay in touch with AAUW National
by liking their Facebook Page.**

**Click below:
[AAUW National Facebook](#)**

**Follow them on Twitter by
clicking below:
[AAUW Twitter](#)**

Check it out!

Tech Trek YouTube Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpM3Cwb6ihg>

If you think about it...

Book Sorters: If you have any brown paper grocery bags, or sturdy shopping bags (with handles) from department stores, the book sorters could use them. Feel free to give them to Betsy Gaudette-Cross, Sandy Parmelly, or anyone else you know who helps with **Book Sorting**.

Batter Women's Shelter: Betsy Gaudette-Cross will always take your extra makeup and makeup bags, travel bags, hotel shampoo/conditioner/lotion/soap, or anything else you have that you think the women could use. I went to visit the shelter in September, and it is a wonderful facility. Call her if you have questions or want to drop off at her home, or bring to a general meeting.



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