

Notes from the Presidents: Cathy Lovell & Nancy Adalian

“Success is a staircase not a doorway.” I found this sage observation in a Chinese fortune cookie recently. It reminded me of our September program where Dr. Jennifer La Serna described her professional journey in just that way. Step by step, each job she had prepared her for a new challenge until she ultimately became the Vice President of Academic Services at COS. She attended Visalia schools, including COS, so we can be proud that another local girl makes good.

This month’s program promises to be very interesting. Aileen Rizo is our speaker. She is a recipient of Legal Advocacy Funds (LAF) from AAUW to pursue a lawsuit against Fresno County of Education. She claims she receives less pay than a male co-worker who has fewer qualifications for the position. It will be a luncheon meeting. Come see the newly remodeled Sue Sa’s Clubhouse, now known as Left of Center.

Reflecting about past programs, looking forward to new ones, and saying good-bye to past presidents, Caryl and Sally, all make me appreciate the permanence of our local branch of AAUW. Thanks to many dedicated women who came before us, we continue to celebrate our 90th anniversary this year and look forward to many more years ahead.

One of the highlights for October is our semi-annual Book Sale at the Sequoia Mall. Susan Cunningham is working her way through our directory calling to schedule members to work. Why not surprise her by calling to see what times are still open and in need of workers. It takes all of us to make

October AAUW Meeting

- **DATE:** October 8, 2016
- **TIME:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Sign in starts at 11:15 am
- **Sue Sa’s Clubhouse**
- **COST:** \$15.00

Please send reservations by OCTOBER 1ST

Susan Mathews
3933 W Woodside Ct
Visalia, CA 93291
559.739.1449
Email: smathews18@gmail.com

Aileen Rizo is our speaker for the meeting. She works as the Partnership Liaison for the AIMS Center for Math and Science Education, located on the campus of Fresno Pacific University. She has served in state capacities with the California Department of Education.

Did you know that women are being paid approximately 80% of what men are paid? The pay gap is worse for women of color. Aileen is going to talk about her quest for equal pay for women. She is suing Fresno County Office of Education because of gender pay discrimination. AAUW National is a sponsored Litigant for her.

Don’t forget to reserve your spot. At least call and then pay at the door.

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!

Cathy



**Cut Out
and
Save**



2016 AAUW Programs

- **Oct 8th Saturday, 11:30 am, Lunch** – Sue Sa’s Clubhouse. Speaker: Aileen Rizo, AAUW Sponsored Litigant. Her quest for equal pay.
- **October 12-17th, Book Sale Sequoia Mall.** Call Susan Cunningham, 625-3667 to help
- **Nov 17th Thursday, 11:30 am, Lunch – Lamp Liter Inn,** Ruth Wood House & Kaweah Delta Hospice, Speaker: Carole Jordan/Carol Nickel
- **Dec 10th Saturday, Holiday Tea, 2:00-4:00 pm,** Home of Marilyn Rankin, Badger Hill
- **Jan 18th, Wednesday, 11:30 am, Lunch – Lamp Liter Inn,** Speaker: Armen D. Bacon, Author and Writer for the Fresno Bee
- **March TBA**
- **April 19th – 24th Book Sale Sequoia Mall**
- **Apr 20th Thursday, 11:30 am, Lunch – Lamp Liter Inn,** Speaker: Jenny Zeeb, topic, The Power of Creativity
- **May 13th Saturday, 11:30 Potluck Lunch,** The Lakes Club House, AAUW Scholarship Awards

Important Information

Book Sale • October 12th to 17th

We are quickly approaching the date for the fall book sale at Sequoia Mall! Once again we have a tremendous number of wonderful books. I can say without reservation that we have a book for everyone! Plan to tell friends, neighbors and relatives about this wonderful opportunity to purchase used books and support educational opportunities for local students. If you were planning to donate books please drop them off at Lifestyle soon. If you haven't signed up to help at the book faire **please call Susan Cunningham at 625-3667 or 901-5545 to schedule a time.**

Learn the Propositions (Come to Coffee and California Concerns) and be prepared to VOTE on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH!

Have you liked us on Facebook yet? 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





Congratulations to the following who are celebrating a milestone in their 2016 AAUW membership:

Five years

Elizabeth Kieske
Belen Kersten
Sherri Bentley
Jan Johnson
Beth McAuliff

Ten years

Donna Denham
Lori Olvera-Clarkson
Susan Cunningham

Twenty years

Marsha Roberts

Thirty years

Carol Dias
Julie Bissat
Ann Mehrten-McKellar
Sandra Gist-Langiano

Forty years

Joan Morse
Pauline Badgley

Fifty years

Dona Meinhardt
Cherilyn Jackson

New Members

• **Please add to your directory** •

Judy Larsen
1616 W Myrtle Ave, Visalia 93277
559/733-8834
jlarsen@yahoo.com
CSU Fresno 1973
BA- Communication

Nancy Holmes
3820 W Orchard Ct, Visalia 93277
559/733-3481
Nholmes72@yahoo.com
CSU Fresno – Liberal Art
BA 1990

Sharon Mayo
4327 W Concord, Visalia 93277
559/749-1842
Sharon.mayo@att.net
Mercy College – Spanish, Social Work
BA (?)

Terry Smith
3231 S Lovers Lane Apt G, Visalia 93292
559/754-2609
Tsmith3231@comcast.net
CSU Fresno – Political Science
BA 1976

Kathryn Weber's cell
559 786-0041

McKenna Friend-Hoffman
mckenna@artsconsortium.org

In Remembrance

We've recently lost two dedicated members. Caryl Turner served as president for two terms, 1957-1959. She passed away May 18, 2016, after celebrating 102+ wonderful years of life. Cathy Lovell represented our branch at Caryl's Celebration of Life service last week. Family members were pleased because they remember how important AAUW was to Caryl. A more recent past president, Sally Childers, passed away September 22 after a brave battle with ovarian cancer. She served as co-president two terms, 2006-07 with Louise Ford, and 2008-09 with Marilyn Watson. Sally was active in bridge groups and taught many members to play. She also participated in the Knit Wits section. Both these ladies were strong advocates of AAUW's mission of equity for women and girls although they served half a century apart. They will be missed.

The Visalia Players production of "The Vagina Monologues" is awesome. This show grapples with many of the issues we women face. The performances by these talented women will make you laugh and cry. I've been sitting in on rehearsals since late August as the Visalia Players board liaison, and the performances of these women continue to move me. The show, directed by Sergio Garza, features Debra Hansen, Rachel Sievers, Leiana Petlewski, Cyndie Maxwell, Robin Hoffman, Janice Talbert, Elaine Wood, Bethany Reynolds, and Lindsay Tweed. Show dates are September 30, October 1,7,8 at 7:30 p.m.; September 25, October 2 & 9 at 2:00 p.m. Visit the website [Visalia Players - HOME](#) or phone the reservation line: 734-3900.

Thanks - Karen Simpson

Do You Have A Special Interest

Coffee and California Concerns

CCC Meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Mondays; 10:15 a.m., at members' homes. This group is distributing responsibilities by forming two-person teams to organize each meeting. One gal will provide her home as the venue, and provide beverage(s). The other will bring simple goodies. Together, they will decide what materials need to be presented, whether or not to invite a speaker, etc. Each team will communicate to the whole group through Maile, who has an e-blast list at the ready. Join them!

Here's our pre-election schedule:

** Oct. 3

Topic: Ballot measures related to education:
Props. 51, 53, 55, 58
Team: Joanne Dudley & Nancy Jones
Venue: Joanne's home, 2238 N. Clark St.

** Oct. 17

Topic: Ballot measures related to legal issues and good governance:
Props. 54, 57, 59, 62/66, 63
Team: Nancy Adalian & Terry Cornelius
Venue: Nancy's home, 3330 S. Willis Ct.

We have a lot to cover, so we'll be starting promptly at 10:30. We're being requested to print off the propositions at home, so we can read them before the discussion. (This really helps.) Here is where they can be found: <https://lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-measures> Click on "Read more" for the propositions we're focusing on.

For AAUW's recommendations:

<http://www.aauw-ca.org/index.cfm?go=pages.view&pagesid=489&parent=445&coparent=489>

For the League of Women Voters' recommendations:

<https://lwvc.org/news/ballot-measure-recommendations-november-8-2016-general-election>

Two more great resources:

Voters Edge California:

<http://votersedge.org/ca>

Ballotpedia:

<https://ballotpedia.org>

Come join the discussion!

-- Maile

Knit Wits welcome all who enjoy any type of needlework. We meet at Panera every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Please join us if you like to knit, crochet, embroider, etc.

Great Decisions – Great Decisions

It's time to reserve your place for Great Decisions 2017! AAUW sponsors this discussion group on international issues in Visalia, under the aegis of the Foreign Policy Association and in partnership with C.O.S. The eight sessions are on Tuesday evenings (7-9 pm)--at C.O.S.--and will go from late January to early May (approx. every other week).

The book of readings must be ordered ahead. As usual, we are offering them at a group discount (\$23) until Nov. 1. After that, they will be \$25. The books arrive in January, for pick-up at the Library. There is a lot going on in our world. This promises to be a fascinating series.

• Co-chairs: Carol Finney (733-1198) and Maile Melkonian (802-3315) • (AWESOME discussion with intelligent people about foreign affairs. *editorial comment)

Topics for 2017

The Future of Europe

Trade and Politics

Conflict in the South China Sea

Saudi Arabia in Transition

U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum

Latin America's Political Pendulum

Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan

Nuclear Security

Garden Gals will be meeting the second Friday of each month. If you want to join them, please contact Carol Finney at 559.731.2938.

For more information on the individual groups within AAUW, consult your directory, page 4-5.



A Memory of the Good Old Days in the Visalia-Sequoia AAUW Branch

Marilyn S. Heitzman

I thank my parents for making it possible for me to go to college, graduate and be able to join the American Association of University Women. I am so proud and grateful to AAUW for all it has given me for over 60 years.

I was a newlywed in 1949 when my husband, Mearle, and I moved from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Tulare, California, where Mearle was offered a job to learn the restaurant business at Nielsen's Creamery and Restaurant.

Leaving Salt Lake and my family and friends to make a home in Tulare was daunting, but fortunately for me, AAUW was there for me. I was welcomed, had instant friends, associations with wonderful women and choices of various interest groups.

After living 12 years in Tulare, Mearle, I, and our three daughters, Rosalie, Shelley and Amy, moved to Visalia, where we bought the restaurant at 604 S. Mooney Boulevard which became Mearle's Drive-In.

I transferred my membership in AAUW to Visalia-Sequoia Branch. There I was welcomed again, had instant friends, associations with wonderful women and choices of various interest groups.

I learned that in Visalia, the general meetings were held in the AAUW Clubhouse. I thought how special that Sequoia Branch owned its own clubhouse and making it more special, it had a beautiful baby grand piano in the meeting room. The piano was always adorned with a lovely bouquet of flowers the day of our meetings. I always admired the piano and thought it gave our meeting music, pleasure and elegance.

The clubhouse was such a source of pride for members of Visalia-Sequoia Branch through the years, but the time came when the clubhouse had to be put up for sale. Everything in the clubhouse had to be sold, including the baby grand piano.

I learned the asking price for the piano and

though it was very nominal, so I told my daughter, Rosalie who was a newlywed. Rosalie and her husband looked at the piano, liked the piano and bought it.

The years had taken a toll on the piano. It needed refurbishing in every way. Rosalie had professionals install new workings and she took on the job of refinishing it herself.

It was a long process to bring the piano back to its original beauty, but Rosalie accomplished this and since 1975 the piano has become an elegant focal point in her living room in Sacramento.

A little piece of the history of Visalia-Sequoia Branch of the American Association of University Women is still giving music, pleasure and elegance to Rosalie and her family.

The C.O.S. CHAP (Cultural Historical Awareness Program) lecture series invites the public on campus for thoughtful, well-informed presentations on very timely topics. Their 2016-2017 theme is "Wealth and Inequality." The next lecture is: "The Participation Gap: Digital Inequality and the Construction of Online Identity" Dr. Elizabeth Losh •Wed., October 19, 6:30 p.m. Ponderosa Hall • Free

Dr. Losh is a Harvard grad whose current CV includes director of academic programs at U.C. San Diego and associate professor of English and American Studies at the College of William and Mary.

Take Your Branch to the Movies to See Equity

Equity is a Wall Street drama about women who thrive on competition, ambition, deals, and strategy buy who must carefully calibrate every aspect of their lives – professional and private – to stay in the game. Equity was executive produced by AAUW of New Jersey member Candy Straight, a former investment banker, and is based on interviews from hundreds of women who have worked in finance. Equity's message aligns closely with AAUW's latest research report on the barriers and bias that women leaders face. Check [Equity's website](#) to see when and where it's playing in our city.



Calling all section chairs, committee chairs, and officers:

The newsletter editor is asking a favor of you (actually anyone can do this). When you have a gathering, an activity, or a meeting would you please take a picture or two with your cellphone and send it to me with a paragraph about the image? It will help make our newsletter a lot more fun to read. Put "NEWSLETTER" in the subject of the email.

Thank you.

Betsy
betsygc@me.com
559.786.5340 if you have any questions

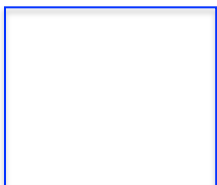
Ladies of AAUW

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!

As soon as you know about any of these occasions, please contact me. Please don't think someone else may have called already. You won't be bothering me and I'd much rather get 3 notices about the same person than none!

Email me @: 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



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