

Notes from the Presidents: Cathy Lovell & Nancy Adalian

Once again, we thank our Program Committee for providing us with a most interesting, informative, and uplifting speaker. Armen Bacon's passion for writing and for life is infectious. In the foreword of her book, My Name is Armen, she describes why she writes: "Words as oxygen. This most accurately answers the "why" question about my storytelling. I write to survive, to remember, to make sense from chaos and to discover the voice residing deep within." By the end of her talk, several members were inspired to form a new special interest section about writing.

You won't want to miss our next program, which features information about our local Family Services Center. We'll learn about the many ways they empower women to improve their lives and that of their children. This is important work that directly relates to our mission statement of promoting equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive change.

Finally, it's time once again to form a Nominating Committee to propose a new slate of officers for July 2017. Margo Tressler has agreed to chair the committee. A number of current officers are willing to continue for another year so the committee's work should not take too long. We need two volunteers from the general membership to help Margo make contacts. Please let one of us know if you are available.

Although February is our shortest month, it is packed with celebrations. We say Happy

February AAUW Meeting

- DATE: February 16, 2017
- TIME: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
- The Lamp Liter
- Topic: Battered Women's Shelter
- PRICE: \$18.00
- Orders need to be received by Saturday, FEBRUARY 11TH

MAIL CHECK TO Phyllis Matteson
3320 S Hall St
Visalia, CA 93277

PHONE RESERVATIONS: 559.732.1988

TEXT: 559.300.5022

EMAIL: rapmat@aol.com

The history of domestic violence has been one of silence and shame. As a community and as women of AAUW, who support and empower women, we need to learn about domestic violence and how we can help.

Some quick facts about domestic violence. Domestic violence occurs in all races, ages, socio-economic classes, religious affiliations, and educational backgrounds. It is the leading cause of injury to women. Sadly, many times children are involved. Where can women go who are without family or friends? This is why battered women's shelters play such an important in communities, including Visalia. The Shelter has asked for donations of twin comforters, pillows and towels. They can be expensive for one person to buy. Members could go together for a purchase or make a cash donation.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THIS TIMELY
AND IMPORTANT MEETING.**

Groundhog Day, Happy Valentine's Day,
Happy Presidents' Birthdays, and enjoy Fat
Tuesday!

Cathy and Nancy



Cut Out and Save

2016 AAUW Programs

- Feb. 16th, Thursday, 11:30 am, Lunch – Lamp Liter Inn. Speaker: Battered Women’s Shelter
- March 16th, Thursday, 11:30 am, Lunch – Lamp Liter Inn, Speaker: Cynthia Norvall, COS Food Pantry
- April 19th – 24th Book Sale Sequoia Mall
- Apr 12th, 11:30 am, Lunch – Sue Sa’s Clubhouse, Speaker: Jenny Zeeb, topic, The Power of Creativity
- May 13th Saturday, 11:30 Potluck Lunch, The Lakes Club House, AAUW Scholarship Award



Coffee and California Concerns January Meeting at Self Help

The Coffee and California Concerns Group recently met at the newest Self Help Enterprise development, Highland Gardens, a 36-unit apartment complex. Each unit is a small home in a duplex style with a community center. Tom Collishaw, CEO of Self Help, gave a very informative talk explaining the history, goals and developments throughout the San Joaquin Valley. He also explained the financing and differences between Self Help and the other non-profit developments such as Habit for Humanity. This was such an informative meeting that I urge you to join Coffee and California concerns to stay up to date on what is happening in Visalia, San Joaquin Valley, our state and nationally.



Have You Seen This?

You might be interested in these things

Are you participating in the ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club?

As many of you know, book clubs are a great way to meet people, learn new things, and have fun! Many AAUW members share a love of reading, and that's why the [¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club](#) began. Using the [reading list](#) and [online author discussions](#), we're learning, having meaningful conversations, spotlighting engrossing stories, and supporting female authors, who are much less likely than male authors to have their books reviewed in major publications like the *New York Times* and *Harper's Magazine*. Get involved by [checking out](#) this year's reading list, [starting your own ¡Adelante! book club group](#), [RSVPing](#) for an upcoming author discussion, or [signing up](#) to be the first to know about future events!

Introducing HotelStorm: A New Member Benefit!

AAUW is excited to announce that we've launched our own members-only hotel booking website to bring you the lowest prices on hotels all over the world. In our private portal on HotelStorm's website, you'll find thousands of hotels at your fingertips, 24/7 customer service support, and discounts of **10–55 percent** on hotel rooms. Unlock savings [here](#) by entering the passcode MEMBERPERK.

AAUW Art Contest

[Calling all AAUW artists!](#) Showcase your artwork and get a chance to be featured on our spring note cards! Submit your art online in January, vote in February, and see the winning submissions in March.

AAUW Donations to Visalia Senior Center

Attendees to the annual *AAUW Christmas Tea* gave generously many comfort items to benefit the seniors. Items donated included multiple warm lap blankets perfect for the wheelchair bound senior as well as warm socks, gloves, scarves and gift certificates. Four large bags containing all the gifts were delivered to the Senior Center December 12. The staff were most appreciative of the gifts and offered assurance that each item would be enjoyed with gratitude.

Do You Like to Write?

Following Ms. Bacon's presentation at our January meeting, several people expressed an interest in forming an AAUW writer's section. It might be a group where we would write essays on an assigned topic and then share and discuss our works. If a sufficient number are interested, we could have a formation meeting - perhaps in April - where we would decide how we'd like to conduct the group. If interested, please e-mail me at visaliamarsha@aol.com.

Marsha Roberts

"Whatever it is, it's OK because it's what it is. Don't be looking for perfection. Don't be short-tempered with yourself, and you'll be a whole lot nicer to be around with everyone else."
"Take chances; make mistakes. That's how you grow. Pain nourishes your courage. You have to fail in order to practice being brave."
"Having a dream is what keeps you alive. Overcoming challenges makes life worth living."

Mary Tyler Moore, 1936 - 2017

We received this information from our sister organization and thought we would share it with you.

The Mariposa Branch is hosting an Evening in Paris fundraising event that should prove to be a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

Tickets are only \$20 prior to the event and \$25 at the door. They can be purchased online on our website: <http://mariposa-ca.aauw.net/> or I can send them to you.

Thanks so much,

Sandi

*AAUW Mariposa Branch Fundraising Chair
AAUW California Director, Communications*

“An Evening in Paris” is theme of AAUW fundraiser

Vive la France! Bid Bon Voyage to everyday life and spend “An Evening in Paris” at the French-themed fundraiser hosted by Mariposa AAUW (American Association of University women). The event is slated for **Saturday, February 11th from 4-7 pm** at the Mariposa Fairgrounds. Patrons will stroll through a Parisian marketplace on their way to a romantic French bistro complete with twinkling lights and a cabaret atmosphere.

The evening will feature a live professional singer and accompanist who will set the mood and engage the audience with lively songs reminiscent of the lounge era.

The marketplace will offer a silent auction featuring services and experiences donated by AAUW members. Buyers can bid on everything from candlelight dinners to Costco shopping to children’s birthday parties. Various handcrafted items will also be available for purchase.

For the gastronomes, there will be an array of finger foods with a French flair to sample while enjoying the shopping and entertainment. A no-host bar will be available.

Tickets for “An Evening in Paris” are \$20 pre-sale and \$25 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased on the AAUW website www.aauwmariposa.com or from any AAUW member. Couples are encouraged to come for a memorable night of l’amour.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the service and educational projects of AAUW. The Mariposa branch has nearly 100 members who support programs for the community, such as

candidates’ forums and “Dinner with a Scientist” for students to explore STEM careers. To learn more, visit www.aauwmariposa.com.



Gorgeous Garden Gals met on January 13, 2017 for a demonstration of flower arranging by the staff of Creative Flowers. Here are some of the photos from the day.



The owners of Creative Flowers show the Garden Gals how to arrange a bouquet and how to make a bow for a basket.



Ladies - If you'd like to help ACT with the flowers for the march, they will be working Tuesday, February 14 from 11:30 - 1:30 at ACT office. If you need more info, contact me. - janboys3@yahoo.com. Thanks!
Jan Johnson

Visalia RISE will again.

ONE IN THREE WOMEN ON THE PLANET
WILL BE RAPED OR BEATEN
IN HER LIFETIME.
THAT IS ONE BILLION WOMEN.

THIS YEAR, ON FEBRUARY 14TH, WE ARE
CALLING ON WOMEN AND MEN EVERY-
WHERE TO HARNESS THEIR POWER AND
IMAGINATION TO RISE FOR JUSTICE.

JOIN US!

WHEN:

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 14TH
4:30 - 6:00 PM

WHERE:

MARCH BEGINS AT 5:00 AT
GARDEN STREET PLAZA, DOWN-
TOWN VISALIA

CELEBRATION TO FOLLOW
MARCH AT THE
GARDEN STREET PLAZA



This event is proudly sponsored by these organizations:



RISE IN SOLIDARITY
#1BILLIONRISING
#VDAY

LET'S RISE TOGETHER

ABOLISH

1 BILLION RISING
REVOLUTION
SOLIDARITY AGAINST
EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN

14
FEBRUARY
2017

RISE! DISRUPT! CONNECT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 559.738.8037



Do You Have A Special Interest?

Coffee and California Concerns:

We had a MOST interesting briefing at Self-Help's newest project, Highland Gardens, last month (see photos). Here's our line-up for February:

** Monday, Feb. 6 at 10:15

Topic: Racism:

Book: "Just Mercy," by Bryan Stevenson (not required to read, but helpful)

Team: Carol Finney & Judy Lawsen

Venue: Carol's home, 2106 S. Anthony Ct.

** Monday Feb. 20 at 10:15

Topic: Mental Health:

Speaker: Denise Nelson, president of N.A.M.I.

Team: Rosemary Jackson & Terry Cornelius

Venue: Rosemary's home, 1146 W. Hemlock Ave.

Great Decisions Our Great Decisions briefing books are in and available for pick-up at the Library in

Visalia:
200 Oak Ave. (between Locust and Encina) in
Visalia.

Ask at the Reference Desk for yours.

Our first meeting is on January 31, 7-9pm, in John Muir Building at C.O.S. (Thanks to Carol Enns for making these venue arrangements once again.) I will have full schedule info sheets for all of you at that session. The world keeps on spinning, and Carol Finney and I look forward to discussing aspects of it with all of you in the coming months.

--Maile Melkonian

AAUW Great Decisions Co-Chair

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

Gorgeous Garden Gals Friday February 10 we will go to Clovis Botanical Garden. We will meet at the Wyndham parking lot at 11:00 am and carpool to

Fresno for lunch and then to Clovis Botanical Gardens. They are a work in progress and constantly changing. Please call me if you can go so I can figure out a place for lunch and make reservations. Carol Finney 731-2938.

Traveling Troupers

Meeting - Wed. Feb. 1st, 9:30 Valhalla's

Refresher Bridge will meet Wednesday, February 8, 1 p.m. at the home of Judy Mayfield.

Help!!

There is a friend of The Ruth Woods Open Arms House who will make quilts out of your odd pieces of cotton material. Bring to a meeting or give to a board member. Thanks – Dona Meinhardt.

Looks like we got coverage in The Fresno Bee! I'm sure this is from the press release C.O.S. sent out...thus they got top billing. Click on the link. <http://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/education/article129386489.html>

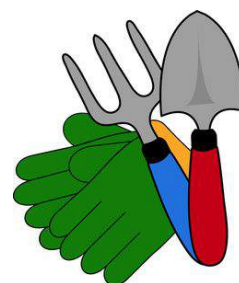
Upcoming event of interest:

Lawn-Free Garden Tour: This tour is meant to inspire homeowners with design ideas, plant choices, and other tips.

It's with the Sequoia Garden Club, Saturday, March 25, 2017, 9:00am-3:00pm

\$15 in advance

Five beautiful residential gardens, plus a sixth at Visalia's newest Fire Station #53 with a plant sale and info booths, including C.O.S. Ag, Master Gardeners, Sequoia Riverlands Trust and the City of Visalia's Natural Resources Conservation Div. A good place to get your questions answered! Contacts: Maile Melkonian, Carol Finney, Rosalie Powell



**CALLING ALL SECTION CHAIRS,
COMMITTEE CHAIRS,
OFFICERS, AND ANYONE WITH
A CAMERA/PHONE:**



THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR IS ASKING A FAVOR OF YOU. *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
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL
559.786.5340

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

[Visalia Sequoia AAUW](#)

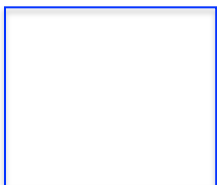
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<http://visaliasequoia-ca.aauw.net>

*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

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



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