

**AAUW Mission Statement**  
AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

**AAUW Value Promise**  
By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

## January

Learn About our Community!

What does Visalia have to offer women and children in crisis? We have answers!

A panel of three dynamic women will fill in the blanks.

Caity Meader is the executive Director of Family Services of Tulare County.

Alma Borja is Domestic Violence program manager of Karen's House.

Marilyn Barr is director of CASA at the Tulare County Juvenile Detention Facility.

You will want to hear about each one of these programs and their place our community!!!!

**Date:** Saturday, January 19

**Where:** The Club House  
669 W Center, Visalia

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

Please send your check for \$16 to Linda Brown, 228 E Dorothea, 93277 by January 15th.

## February

AAUW Speech Trek Competition.

Mark your calendars for February 2, 2013 and plan to attend our annual AAUW Speech Trek competition. With approximately 20 students from throughout Tulare County planning to participate, the competition should, once again, be at a high level. This year's topic is "Sexual Harassment in School - A Big Deal?" - an issue certainly to spark some frank conversation and debate.

Hope to see you there!

**Date:** Saturday, February 2

**Where:** Tulare County Office of Education  
2637 W Burrel, Visalia

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

Light refreshments will be served.

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### IN MEMORIAM

Long time branch member, Zabelle Melkonian passed away in December. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family and friends.



Happy New Year!

### President's Message

Thanks go to Beth McAuliff for providing her beautiful home for our Christmas Tea. It was a perfect place for us to enjoy a relaxing, festive afternoon. Thanks also to Louise Ford and MaryLou Flattley and their committee for providing a tea worthy of Downton Abbey.

One of the priorities of AAUW National is to see the passage of the Violence Against Women Act. A bipartisan bill was passed by the Senate in April. Although the programs authorized by the bill continued to run, the current authorization expired almost two years ago. Different versions of the legislation passed both houses of Congress but on January 2, 2013, the Senate's 2012 reauthorization of VAWA was not brought up for a vote in the House, effectively ending the bill after 18 years in effect. It is important that some form of this bill be reinstated. Information about it is readily available on the internet.

We are looking forward to our January program which will address the issue of violence against women.

Carol Seastrom, President

## Getting to Know You

We are pleased to have several new members and want to introduce them in each issue of *Sequoia News*.

### Sandra Perry

Sandra Perry was a farm owner and operator for over 30 years. Her family company was Perry Orchards and Land Development. After working such long hours she is still trying to decide what new interests she would like and where she would like to travel to. She has been volunteering at St. Mary's Altar Society and St. Joseph Christian Supply. We welcome Sandra to our branch.

### Eleanor Inamine, University of Colorado

Eleanor Inamine--Ellie, as her friends call her--is a returning member. Ellie graduated from the University of Colorado with a B.S. in Nursing. She worked in hospitals, in public health and later as a school nurse for Visalia Unified. Since Ellie retired, you can find her and her husband at Lifestyle almost every day. They love traveling and have traveled to many places including Japan and Israel. Ellie also loves going to Sacramento to visit her children and grandchildren. Since retiring she also started playing with a mahjong group and practices tai chi.

Something that very few people know about Ellie is that she grew up on skid row in Colorado. After the war, Colorado's governor was the only one west of the Mississippi who would allow Japanese folks to live in his state. Her family owned a laundry on skid row, and they lived behind it. We welcome Ellie back to our branch. Who knows? Maybe she'll start a new tai chi section.

### DUES REDUCED FOR NEW MEMBERS

Since it's midway through our dues year, the cost to join AAUW for the remainder of this membership year has been reduced from \$75 to \$50.50. If you have been thinking about recruiting a new member, now is the perfect time. Contact either Donna Denham (734-1659) or Carol Finney (733-1198) for a membership application. The cost reduction begins January 1 and continues through March 15.

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

The following is one of the 11 thank-you notes received from Manuel Hernandez School students our branch sponsored to attend the fall event "Expanding Your Horizons."

Dear AAUW,  
Thank you for letting me go to expanding your horizons. I had a great time. I felt like I was older and more responsible. It was fun being with my friends. My favorite class was the last one in room 210, Chemistry. Chemistry was my favorite because I've always wanted to do an experiment, and it was cool. I learned that oil spills are becoming a big problem for the sea animals. I also learned that I can be anything I want to be. I loved going to expand your horizons. Thanks again for letting me go to expanding your horizons.

Sincerely, Samantha

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**THANK YOU**

We want to thank all those who helped make our Christmas tea so enjoyable. Especially to Beth for opening her home to us and being such a hard-working gracious hostess. It takes many many hours for her to get her home decorated and set up for us. Thanks to all the bakers, greeters, pourers, kitchen helpers and clean-up gals. You all pitched in and got it done.

Louise and Mary Lou

AAUW Funds - Thanks to contributions by sections and individuals, \$138 was raised at our December tea. Thanks also to members who supported the raffle. WAY TO GO!!!

AAUW Re-elected Chair of National Women's Coalition

The National Coalition of Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE), a group of more than 50 organizations, recently re-elected AAUW as its chair. NCWGE works to promote gender equity in education.

Please fill out and mail in the public policy questionnaire that came with your National AAUW Outlook

[aauw.org/learn/publications/outlook](http://aauw.org/learn/publications/outlook)

**Please add the following information to your yearbooks:**

You are entitled to deduct \$40 of your dues on your tax return.

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# Dates to Remember

Date	Event	Information
Every Monday	Book Sorting	8:30 a.m. 1000 N. Burke
Every Tuesday	Knit Wits	10 a.m. - Panera
Every Thursday	Walkers	8:30 a.m. - Home of Dona Meinhardt,
Jan. 8	Coffee & California Concerns	9:00 a.m. - 210
Jan. 16	Unabridged Book Group	7:00 p.m. - Home of Susan Cunningham
Jan. 19	General Meeting - Community Resources	10:00 a.m. - Sue Sa's Club House
Jan. 20	Single Women's Gourmet Group	4:30 p.m. - Home of Mary Lou Flattley
Jan. 23	Coffee & California Concerns	9:00 a.m. - 210
Jan. 24	New Member Reception	7:00 p.m. - Home of Carol Finney
Jan. 25	Gorgeous Girls Gardening	1:00 p.m. - Home of Carol Bixler
Jan. 29	Great Decisions*	7:00 p.m. - COS, Room 107 John Muir
Feb. 1	Bookworms - Girl Gone	1:30 p.m. - Home of Sally Childers
Feb. 2	General Meeting - Speech Trek	10:00 a.m. - TC Office of Education
Apr. 18 - 25	Book Sale	Sequoia Mall

## NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

A Welcome to Visalia-Sequoia AAUW Reception for our newest members will be held at the home of Carol Finney, 2106 S. Anthony Court on January 24 at 7:00 p.m. The reception is a time for new members to meet section leaders and officers and learn more about how AAUW can be a part of their lives.

Please RSVP to Donna Denham 734-1659 or [ddenham56@aol.com](mailto:ddenham56@aol.com)

## \*GREAT DECISIONS

**Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs.** The name is shared by a national civic-education program, briefing book and television series administered and produced by the Foreign Policy Association. The Great Decisions program highlights eight of the most thought-provoking foreign policy challenges facing Americans each year. Great Decisions provides background information, current data and policy options for each issue and serves as the focal text for discussion groups. Please join us at COS Room 107 of the John Muir Building on January 29. Great Decisions is open to the public.

Published monthly September through May, *Sequoia News* is a publication of the Visalia-Sequoia Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). You may submit articles by e-mail to Nancy Adalian, [AAUWnancy@aol.com](mailto:AAUWnancy@aol.com). Information must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the next issue. To leave a message regarding newsletter items, please call Nancy at 734-7142.

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