

Notes from the Presidents: Sherri Bentley & Nancy Adalian

As 2017 ends, we look back on the wonderful year our AAUW branch has had so far. We have had excellent programs, successful book sales, very active sections and wonderful contacts with old and new friends. Not to be outdone, December offers our **annual Holiday Tea** to be held at the beautiful home of Carol Sonier. We look forward to enjoying a lovely afternoon together socializing as well as bringing gifts for the young women ACT for Women and Girls serves and raising money for AAUW Funds. (See below)

Next month brings around our search for new faces to serve on the Board of Directors and on the various committees of our branch. When the nominating committee calls, please answer in the positive if you are able to serve in one of the positions to be filled. You will find a great deal of satisfaction in participating as an officer or chairperson in this great organization.

Hope to see you at the tea,
Nancy Adalian and Sherri Bentley

Our branch has decided to support ACT for Women and Girls this holiday season. They are a Visalia group with a mission to engage women of all ages in leadership opportunities that will promote social and personal change. Please visit their website at www.actforwomenandgirls.org for more information about this amazing Visalia organization.

Erin Gardner-Ford is their director and this is her response when we approached her about being our holiday recipient, " This is amazing! We are trying to provide pajamas for the babies of our moms we work with. We have 10 moms/babies right now. We'd also love to have toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, paper products, etc for program! Thank you so much!

Boy size 3 months • Girl size 3 months • Boy size 3T • Girl size 18 months • Boy size 3 months • Girl size 4T • Boy size 18 months • Girl size 3 months • Boy size 12 months • Boy size 12 months • Girls size 3T

Gift cards for the girls would also be appreciated!

DECEMBER AAUW Meeting

- HOLIDAY TEA
- DATE: December 9, 2017
- TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 pm
- Where: Home of Carol Sonier, 2544 Border Links Dr., Visalia

Don't miss the Holiday Tea. This is a wonderful annual AAUW event where you can enjoy great company, stimulating conversation, and yummy food. Hope all of you are planning to be there!

There will be a holiday raffle. Many gifts will be available to bid on. Several special items will be on the silent auction. So... if you need gifts, bring some money or your checkbook and prepare to shop.

See you there!

**Cut Out
and
Save**



2017-2018 Programs

- **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**

CALLING ALL MEMBERS:

Are you having fun in your AAUW breakout group? Then get out your phone and take a picture or two for the newsletter... please. Send them to me, the newsletter editor. Include a sentence or two explaining what the image is about, and please put "AAUW Newsletter" in the subject of the email.

Thank you,
Betsy • betsygc@me.com
559.786.5340



Those at Book Sorting Have Been Busy!

A Fresno attorney found us on line and donated 256 boxes of books for our sale. All these books come from the estate of the lady who used to run the AAUW book sale in Fresno. She was nice enough to name us in her will. We are thrilled to have been remembered by one AAUW member!



After several Monday's of sorting, we have finally caught up.

Remember – If you sign up for the monthly meeting and don't show up, you are still responsible for paying for your lunch. Thank you.

Special Interest Groups

Coffee & California Concerns: Our State and local policy discussion group is keeping participants informed about serious issues of community concern. Our next few meetings are local excursions, and they promise to be fascinating and illuminating. Please note that, due to the holidays, we are meeting only once each this month and next. The details for those meetings are:

• **Monday December 4 at 10:15**

Topic: "Understanding Charter Schools"

Speaker: Vicki Porter, VTEC principal

Jill Rojas has scheduled a tour of this public charter school in V.U.S.D. We'll learn about how it's organized, and how it differs from private charters.

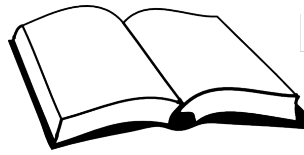
Venue: VTEC High School, 2245 S. Linwood St., Visalia (the old C.O.S. ag campus at Walnut Ave.)

~ Contact is Maile Melkonian.

Bookworms: The Bookworms will be meeting on Friday December 1 at 11:30 a.m. at Café 225 for lunch and discussion. The book selection for December is "Bel Canto" by Ann Patchett. Anyone is welcome to join us, just please call to let us know you are coming so we can add you to the reservation. 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 Panera's. 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.



The Unabridged Book ladies had a fun and lively discussion

this month at the home of hostess Sherri Bentley. Our book for the month was Anna Solomon's Saving Lucy Pear. Sherri treated us to a lovely theme-based dessert, a homemade Pear Tart. We are all looking forward to our annual December lunch at the VP...featuring a book gift exchange.

We Have Three New Members!

Please be sure and add this information to your directory:

Angela Carpenter

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alegalangel@hotmail.com

San Joaquin College of Law

Juris Doctor

Marianne Gilbert

4125 W Nobel Ave #199, Visalia

559.816.2997

mgilbertesq@gmail.com

Willamette University, OR

Juris Doctor in 1988

La Sierra University, CA

Doctor of Education 2012

Savannah Day

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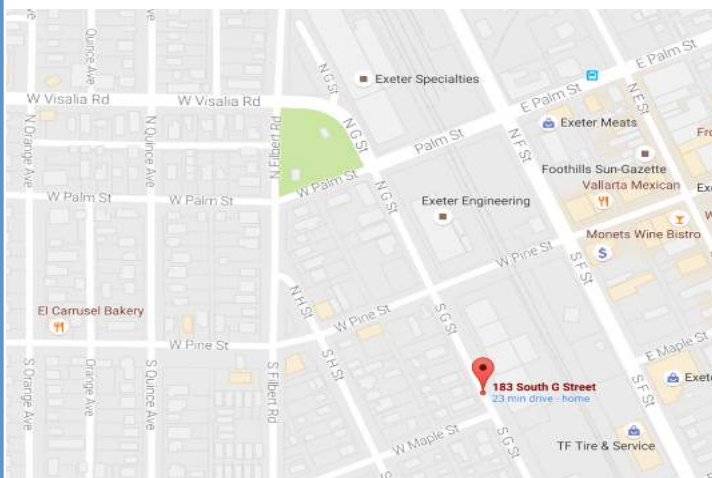
Fresno Pacific

BA – Social Welfare - 2017

DO YOU WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN?

Have you ever wondered how all those books get sorted for the huge book sale? Well, 8:30am on Mondays we gather at a warehouse in Exeter. We sort books until approximately 10:00am, but there is not hard and fast rule that you have to stay the entire time. It's a fun group of women who for some strange reason like to organize books. If you have any question call Sandy Parmelly at (559) 936-1891, sandraparmelly@hotmail.com

Below is a map of where the warehouse is in Exeter. Just west of the railroad tracks.



This is what the warehouse looks like. If you get there a little after 8:30 you should see cars parked on the street and behind the fence.



The Knit Wits:

Left to right: Nancy Adalian, Cathy Lovell, Janice Crenshaw, and Carol Seastrom model sweaters they made together as a knit-along project.

CHECK THIS OUT!

Members of the Knit Wits are busy finishing projects to donate for the Holiday Tea raffle. One very special item is a beautiful cream-colored afghan. Sally Childers finished all the panels before she passed away last year. Rovena Forest recently put it all together. It's large, washable and beautifully stitched. We are donating this for the silent auction. If you enjoy knitting, crocheting or any type of needlework, come join us. We meet every Tuesday morning from 10-noon at Panera's.



Garden Gals Fall Fresno Chaffee Zoo Trip

It was a beautiful day and the animals were out and about in the African Savannah. We watched as the lions followed their keeper's whistle and hand signal instructions to put their paws up on the fence, walk past them, roll onto their backs, and open their mouths to allow the keepers to evaluate their health. Later some of use watched as a trainer for the sea lions checked on Whiskers' flippers, tail, belly, neck, and the interior of his mouth for his daily checkup. An interesting thing about Whiskers is that he was born blind, and the keepers use a form of hands on sign language, using their hand on his back and patterns of finger placement to tell the seal what move they want him to do next. It was quite amazing!

The African Adventures area was planned as an example of the terrain and plants of the African plains. It provides for a more realistic habitat for the animals and provides us with an idea of what the savanna looks like. The plant diversity is a result of the evolutionary processes brought about by many factors including the weather, and low soil fertility. Many plants, and animals, in other areas of the world develop similar characteristics due to convergent evolution.

Adaptations include having thick leaves, waxy surfaces, thin or small leaves, reduced transpiration, spines, methods of surviving fire and drought conditions, dropping leaves to conserve moisture, toxins, and adaptations reducing the likelihood being eaten by herbivores and omnivores. Many also store water in their trunks and provide water for animals during the long dry season.

The savanna also has many plants that are very well adapted to our Mediterranean climate. Plants we see in our area nurseries are very similar to, or are natives of the African Plains.

Most are successful in our climate. The large trees that have grown for years and still doing well in the park are well adapted to our climate. Some irrigation is used though out the park and zoo to help plants survive.



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.

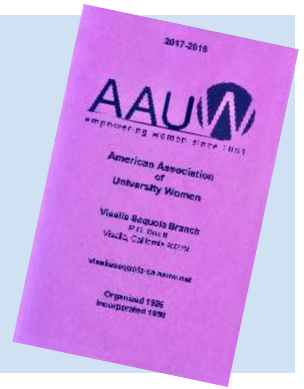
[AAUW Visalia/Sequoia Facebook page](#)

**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](#)**

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



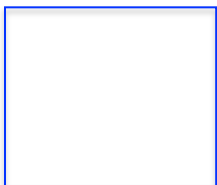
If you think about it...

For 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**.

Check it out!

Tech Trek YouTube Video

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



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