



Visalia-Sequoia Inc. (CA) Branch

Sequoia News

Notes from the Presidents: Sherri Bentley & Marilyn Rankin

Here it is the end of October and we have already completed our book sale, starting our interest sections, planning the Christmas Tea for December, and attending general meetings. We really were glad to see so many members enjoying the discussion this month with speaker Paula Black concerning women and children's issues revealed in Dependency Court. With our high rate of poverty in Tulare County, it was very informative. *The board has decided to name the Boys and Girls Club as our community outreach this year at the Christmas Tea.* Marilyn has included a list of suggestions in the newsletter for items that would be appreciated that you could bring to the **tea December 8 at Susan Mathews home**. Items that help the center are butcher paper, art supplies, pencils, pens, ear pods, hand held calculators, personal items include toiletries (chap sticks, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes, mirrors, backpacks, purse toiletries bags, etc.).

We want to thank all the people who made our book sale a success again. We especially thank our book sorting team who diligently sorted books this fall, the youth who picked up and delivered the books, the leaders Sandra Parmelly, Jan Johnson, Susan Cunningham, Marsha Brooks Smith, and the people in charge of the day. We also thank all the members who so graciously worked shifts selling the books. We couldn't do it without you!

We look forward to our November general meeting at the Vintage Press on Tuesday, **November 13th at 11:30-1:30**. Please note the change in date and time from the directory previously listed.

November AAUW Meeting

NOVEMBER 13, 2018

When: November 13th (Tuesday)

Time: 11:30 to 1:30

Where: The Vintage Press

Program: "How To Make Those Yummy Roasted Pumpkins"

Presenter: David Vartanian, Chef and Proprietor, Vintage Press

Lunch includes: Roasted pumpkin and pear salad, Coffee or tea

Price: \$25.00

Deadline for Reservations: Friday the 9th

Make checks out to: AAUW Visalia Sequoia Branch

Mail to: Susan Mathews
3933 West Woodside Court
Visalia, California 93291

Call Cell: (559) 731-8074 or text to this number

Call Home: (559) 739-1449

Email to: smathews18@gmail.com

Dear Friends...When I receive your reservation I will get back to you. That way you know for sure you are on the list. I promise this to be a great fun event!!!

Love, Susan

It should be a fun meeting with a cooking demonstration with chef David Vartanian preparing those delicious stuffed pumpkins. We will get to partake of the pumpkins. You can prepay for lunch. See you there!

Sherri Bentley and Marilyn Rankin

Special Interest Groups

BOOKWORMS: The Bookworms will be meeting on Friday November 2 at 1:00 at Cyndy McBee's home. The book selected for November is "Beneath A Scarlet Sky" by Mark Sullivan. Anyone is welcome to join us, just please call or email (tkold@sbcglobal.net) to let us know you are coming. Questions? Call Kathy Oldershaw 909-1333.



KNIT WITS: If you enjoy any type of needlework, come join our Knit Wits Section at Panera Bread on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. We knit, crochet, and chat while enjoying coffee, tea and snacks. No need to RSVP, just drop by any Tuesday. Beginners are welcome!

REFRESHER BRIDGE: Refresher bridge meets at 1:00pm the second Wednesday of each month for a relaxing afternoon of bridge. Contact Marsha Roberts if you have any questions. 559.733.8784

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Remember that I would like to hear from any of our members if you know of a member who is ill, has had a death in her family or may need a note of cheer. I will be happy to send out a card from all of us in AAUW.



My email has changed:
gregrensmith@gmail.com

Please make a note of that in case you want to reach me through email. My phone numbers remain the same:
627-3085 (home) • 260-9646 (cell) Please don't hesitate to call or write. I'd rather get 3 calls about the same person than have no one call because everyone assumes someone else already let me know. ☺



COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS: After four sessions focusing on the 11 state propositions and 2 of the 8 local

measures that will be on our November 6 ballots, we are now moving on to the nitty-gritty of how our local governments work. NOTE: Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will meet only once this month. Here are the details:

Monday, November 5 @10:15am

Topic: "How Tulare County Government Works: Organization & Citizen Opportunities"

Speaker: County Supervisor Amy Shuklian

Venue hostess: Cyndy McBee, 4918 Lakewood Dr., Visalia

Goodies: Dona Meinhardt

Supervisor Shuklian has a way of rendering arcane matters of governance into easy-to-understand laymen's terms, and Cyndy has arranged for her to illuminate a level of government too many of us ignore.

REMINDER: Don't forget to bring your Holiday Tea basket items to this session, so Dona can assemble them into something irresistible for the Tea.

Contact: Maile Melkonian ([802-3315](tel:802-3315))



GREAT DECISIONS: Interested in international affairs? This eight-session (revised down to the normal number since our last notice) foreign policy discussion group starts in late January and runs through mid May, meeting about every other Tuesday. We meet 7:00-9:00pm, at C.O.S., starting with an informative background video on the evening's topic; followed by a short snack break; and wrapping up with an hour-plus discussion among participants.

The 2019 topics are:

- * Refugees and Global Migration
- * The Middle East: Regional Disorder
- * Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?
- * The Rise of Populism in Europe
- * Decoding U.S. - China Trade
- * Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics
- * The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested
- * State of the State Department and Diplomacy

We're open to the public, but Briefing Books are required, and may be ordered individually at www.fpa.org/great_decisions/. As always, we

Yeah!

We have new members!

PLEASE PUT THESE NAMES IN THE BACK OF YOUR DIRECTORY

Susan Graves

3003 W. Keogh Ct Visalia 93291

[559-972-6757](tel:559-972-6757)

gravessus8@gmail.com

UC Davis CA

BA and teaching credential 1970

Major English

Interests: Reading, gardening, and yoga

Connie Offutt

2833 S. Kent Ct. Visalia 93277

[559-799-0602](tel:559-799-0602)

coffsage@gmail.com

Heidelberg University Ohio BA 1971

Fresno State University CA MA 1974

Major: Sociology/Rehabilitation Counseling

Dale Simmons

1501 S. Mountain St. Visalia 93277

[559-732-2009](tel:559-732-2009)

dsimmons051@gmail.com

Ariana Gonzales

28950 Rd. 164. Visalia. 93292

[559-708-8389](tel:559-708-8389)

Arigonzales76@yahoo.com

Mary Ann Lawrence

14965 Ave 312. Visalia. 93292

[559-786-8956](tel:559-786-8956)

Dougmary10@gmail.com

will be doing an advance group order. If you want to take advantage of the group discount we offer, send a check in the amount of \$25 (made out to "Maile Melkonian," as she has placed the order in her name) to Maile. ONLY 7 MORE BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DISCOUNTED PRICE. As soon as these Books arrive in mid-January, they will be made available for pick-up at the Public Library in Visalia.

We're looking forward to another illuminating series of discussions!

Contacts:

Maile Melkonian

Carol Finney

Betsy Gaudette-Cross

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT TWO NEW MEMBERS:

Connie Offutt: I was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and have lived in Visalia since 1974. Happily married to my husband, Ray, and have three children and five grandchildren. I worked as a rehabilitation counselor for the California Department of Rehabilitation, and retired after 37 years in the same office. It was a pleasure assisting those with disabilities in training for and finding employment and I am very grateful to have had a career in the helping professions. I am now a CASA volunteer, love to walk my dogs and read, and am excited to become a member of AAUW.

Susan Graves: I've been married to my Mt. Whitney high school sweetheart, Jody, for 48 years and we raised 2 children in Visalia. I'm a retired 5th grade teacher in Exeter (20 years) and part time at VCIS (6 years). I was one of the founding members of Read for Life, a children's literacy nonprofit, and I'm still involved after 30 years. As a family and couple we love to travel and lived in Australia for 5 years. We recently went to Bhutan for our 70th birthdays and are off to Vietnam/Cambodia in January.



What is a *Named Gift* and what does it have to do with the *Holiday Tea Raffle*?

Last year, Marsha Brooks-Smith was honored with a Named Gift Award. The Named Gift Award is given to someone who goes beyond the norm to ensure the success of AAUW's many programs. Congratulations again to Marsha! Our chapter donated the proceeds of our holiday raffle and auction to AAUW's educational fund in Marsha's name.

We're hoping to have a new Named Gift recipient this year. Who will it be? In January, a small committee will choose, but first we have to raise funds for the national donation. Our Holiday Tea is just around the corner, so we need prizes for our popular raffle and silent auction. Prizes can be donated by local businesses, our chapter's special interest sections, or even by individuals. Last year we had over 25 beautiful prizes. If you, your business, or your special interest group has a prize to donate, contact Susan Cunningham ([559-901-5545](tel:559-901-5545) cell) or Dona Meinhardt ([559-732-8421](tel:559-732-8421)) with a prize description and to arrange a pick-up the week before the tea. Let's keep this tradition alive with holiday spirit and fund education at the same time!

AAUW Fall Book Sale 2018

Once again, with the dedication of our book sorters and membership, our AAUW Fall Book Sale was a great success. Our final total was \$16,741.11. We sold over 250 "bags" of books at \$10 a bag the last two days. Set up went smoothly thanks to our new moving crew - the COS Men's Baseball team.

They worked hard and we were loaded up quickly and efficiently. David and Carol Bixler again provided their trailer and our Budget truck rental had a new driver this time - Jay Johnson, who managed not to spill the books. Redwood's FBLA club again muscled the books

from the vans to the mall to help with the setup. Clean up was efficiently handled by Mark Townsend and his crew. I must thank Sandy Parmelly, Carol Glass, Suzanne Babcock, Cyndy McBee and especially Gene Sheesley of the Breakfast Kiwanis Club for helping with clean up. On a quick aside, we could not put on our sale and make the money we do without the help of the young men and women of the COS baseball team and Redwood's FBLA. They provide the muscle that would wear most of us out quickly. It was a pleasure working with them and they certainly give me hope for the future.

Many thanks to Sandy Parmelly for her hard work as operations director, and thanks to all the book sorters who are faithful to this project. They worked very hard playing catch up to sort all the books when we were temporarily without our warehouse during the summer. Susan Cunningham did a great job getting workers for all the shifts. Suzanne Babcock and her publicity crew got out our signs all over town and Marsha Brooks-Smith handled our banking deposits each day gracefully. This could not be done without all of you. Get ready to do it again next APRIL!

Jan Johnson





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

Thank you for helping to put up the book sale signs...

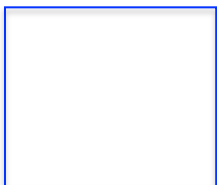
ATTENTION!

Signs must be taken down by **OCTOBER 24th** (hopefully you have them down by now) You can either return the signs to me by dropping them off at my house (3224 S. Ernest, behind Home Depot), bring them to the meeting Nov 13 at the VP, or call me and I will come and get them.

YOU are responsible for collecting the signs and returning them to me. These are NOT throw-aways. So please collect them as soon after the sale is done so they do not get misplaced or lost.

Again...thanks for your help, we could not do this without you!

Suzanne Babcock • sbabcock123@yahoo.com • 559.303.9394



VISALIA, CA 93279
P.O. BOX 6
Visalia-Sequoia Inc. (CA) Branch
AAUM