



Sequoia News

Notes from the Presidents: Sherri Bentley & Marilyn Rankin

We had a wonderful turn out to hear the always entertaining and informative Bruce Kiesling. He review the Sequoia Symphony's upcoming year and elaborated on some of the highlights. We had 60 members in attendance and four guests, eagerly listening to Bruce, the Musical Director/Conductor, inform us about the music and the workings of the Symphony Orchestra. The educated ear has a better appreciation for the music so hope we all are able to better enjoy the Symphony this year.

Thank you to our hard working Program Committee, which provides our program each month. Nancy Jones, Susan Mathews, and Phyllis Matteson deserve a big thank you. So THANK YOU Nancy, Susan and Phyllis!

The October speaker will be a local attorney, Paula Black, who formerly worked in what is called Dependency Court. Paula will tell us about her experience with women and children who found themselves in the dependency court. As AAUW's mission is to improve the opportunities for women and children, it will be interesting to hear of her experience and how Tulare County women and children are impacted.

We are saddened to hear that Donna May McCorkill died from a stroke on Saturday August 18th. Her funeral will be Sunday, Sept. 30th at Miller Memorial Chapel, 1120 West Goshen Ave., Visalia. AAUW sends its condolences to the family.

Next Meeting: Lamp Liter Inn Thursday, October 11th, at 11:30 A.M. **See you there!**

Co-Presidents: Sherri Bentley and Marilyn Rankin

September AAUW Meeting

October 11, 2018

PROGRAM: Women's and Children's Issues from Dependency Court

PRESENTER: Paula Black, attorney

LOCATION: The Lamp Liter

PRICE: \$ 17.00 Please identify what you want for lunch - Chief salad, Chinese's chicken salad and chicken tostada

TIME: 11:30am

Paula Black, now an attorney in private practice, has years of experience in the Dependency Court, a realm unfamiliar to many of us! She will illuminate the types of cases handled by this important arm of the law, and how the lives of women and children are affected.

Send Reservations to no later than Saturday, October 6th by mail or call by October 9th:

Nancy Jones
6018 W School Ct.
Visalia, CA 93291
Cell - 559-731-2395

Please add this NEW MEMBER

to your directory

Dale Simmons

1501 S. Mountain St., Visalia 93277

559-732-2009

dsimmons051@gmail.com

Humboldt State CA

BS in Biological Oceanography, 1985

Interests: science, books, sewing, & art

Special Interest Groups

GREAT DECISIONS: Interested in international affairs? This nine-session (yes, it's 9 this year!) 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
- * India and Its Neighbors
- * Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics
- * The United State 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 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 will be placing the order in her name) to Maile. Supplies are limited to the first 31 checks we receive. The deadline for this is Nov. 1, but we may run out before then. 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

BOOK SALE MONTH!

If you have already signed up to work at the Sequoia Mall AAUW Book Sale, THANK YOU! **If not, keep your calendars open from October 16th through October 23rd.** Susan Cunningham will be calling this week seeking volunteers. It's fun to help out, plus you'll find great books to add to your libraries. You can also call her since the popular morning shifts fill up quickly:

- home 625-3667 • or cell 901-5545.

AAUW Fall Book Sale

Did you know 85% of our Book Sale proceeds goes to fund our various scholarship sponsorships? This includes Tech Trek, Expanding Horizons and COS Student scholarships. Our fall book sale is once again upon us and we are hoping for another successful sale. While our dedicated volunteers have been faithfully sorting books, the sale needs our membership to volunteer to work at the mall. The sale runs from Wednesday, October 17 through Monday, October 22. Set up and clean up are October 16 and October 23. Susan Cunningham, our scheduler, will be calling if you haven't already signed up for a work shift! Please check your calendars and sign up to work a shift or two. The success of our sale and our continued scholarships efforts depends on everyone lending a hand.

Suzanne Babcock has yard signs for the sale. Signs can be posted two weeks before our sale in private yards and empty lots only. We can no longer post them at business addresses. If you haven't gotten your sign yet, email Suzanne at sbabcock123@yahoo.com.

Thanks again for your support of this effort throughout the years!

Jan Johnson • Book Sale Chairman

BOOKWORMS: The Bookworms meet at 1:00pm on the first Friday of the month. It is a very casual book group where we decide as a group what book we will read the next month. The first meeting will be on September 14th. More information will be shared at our general meeting on September 7th. Anyone is welcome to join us. Questions? Call Kathy Oldershaw 909-1333 (cell) or 733-7472 (home)



COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS: We've been focusing on the 11 state propositions and 2 of the 8 local measures that will be on our November 6 ballots. It's a lot to digest, so we'll continue to do so through October.

Here are the details:

Monday, October 1

Topic: Propositions 1, 3, 7, and 10
Program presenters: Phyllis Ogden, Terry Cornelius, Carol Glass, Kathleen Peek
Venue hostess: Donna Kindschuh, 1338 N. Ranch Ct., Visalia, Goodies: Carol Glass

Monday, October 15

Topic: Propositions 5, 6, and Measure A
Program presenters: Terry Cornelius, Carol Finney, Betsy Gaudette-Cross
Venue hostess: Carol Finney (2106 S. Anthony Ct., Visalia)
Goodies: TBD

Come help us sift through the issues, as we all try to become well-informed voters!
Contact: Maile Melkonian (802-3315)

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



Your 2018-2019 Directory is Available!

If you haven't gotten your directory yet, get it at the meeting on Oct. 11th

New feature this year: photos of members! Betsy and Maile have done their best to wrangle as many of your beautiful smiles as they could, and they hope you like the results. If you want to have your photo in the book next year, send it to them anytime.

November 6th is just around the corner. If you are interested in getting involved we have several members of AAUW that are part of organizations that can help you direct your energy. Legal of Women Voters, South Valley Civics, and Nextgen, to name a few. Contact me (Betsy) at betsygc@me.com, 559.786.5340, and I will try to connect you with those people.



All You Ever Wanted To Know About Book Sorting & MORE^(In case you missed it last month)

Book sale cycle of events

Have you ever wondered how the book sale happens? What helps to make this event such a success? Well, here is the answer.

First...books are donated. They are either placed into the donation box at the Lifestyle Center or they are brought out to the warehouse in Exeter.

Next...many dedicated volunteers show up at the Exeter warehouse each and every Monday from 8:30-10:15 to sort all of the donations into the appropriate categories, box them up and store them.

Third...in the days before the sale starts, more volunteers meet to load the hundreds of boxes onto trucks, drive to the mall, unload the books, set up the sale locations, get volunteers to work the sale, etc.

Next comes the sale itself...many **THANKS** to the volunteers who work a shift or more to make this a successful event.

After the last bag sale day...we still have many books left. So the next morning a few volunteers show up to clean up our sale location and deal with the leftover books. Mark Thompson boxes up those books. He donates them to prison ministry, the Bob Wylie Detention Center, 4H, Mennonite Thrift Store, and Goshen School.

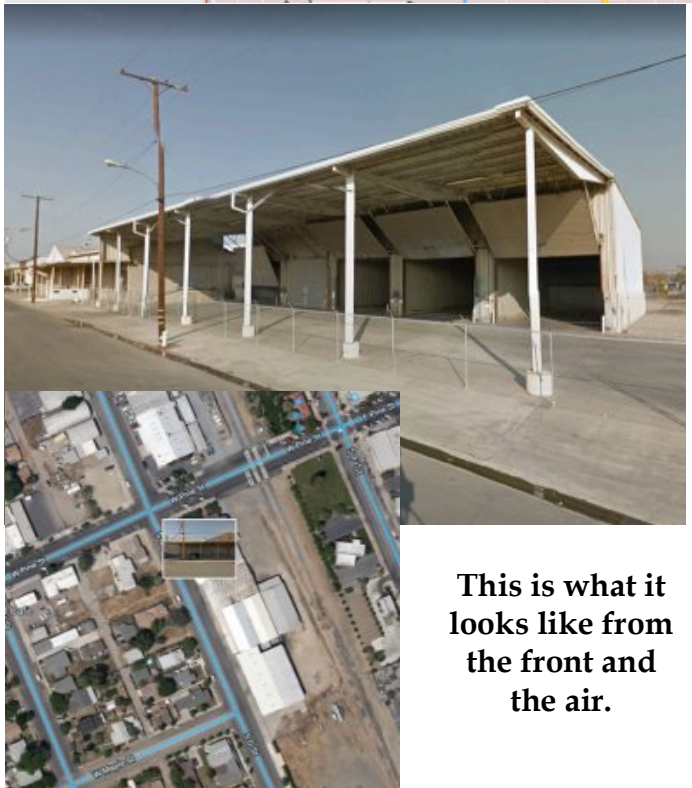
Then...we start the whole cycle all over again.

And while we are talking books... Our book sale is coming up in October. This summer has been a challenge for the book sorting in Exeter as the shed had to close down most of the summer due to a broken entry door. As it is a large door, it has taken time to arrange replacement, and it has been costly for the owner. Since we have been

blessed for three years to have this space for free, and because we don't want to move, the board approved a proposal of paying rent to compensate some of the door cost.

Please think about helping out. We really hope you will join us. The book sale is right around the corner.

Not 100% sure of the address, but it's around
200 S. G Street.



This is what it looks like from the front and the air.

From: AAUW California Perspective – Fall 2018 – Public Policy

When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation!

Sue Miller, Member Public Policy Committee publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

Since 1881, AAUW has been the leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW encourages women voters to get involved in the political process and gain a better understanding of the impact that legislative action – or lack thereof – can have on our lives. In the current partisan climate, we as members need to be aware of what’s at stake in both our national and state upcoming elections. Congressional races are particularly important this November. During these two months we will be bombarded with political advertising in the media and in our mailboxes. There will be information from candidates for office and from proponents and opponents of ballot initiatives. As you sort through all this, please reflect on priority issues affecting us, our daughters and granddaughters and evaluate candidates’ positions on these issues. And for incumbent candidates, find out how they have voted, particularly on issues affecting women and girls.

If you have signed up to vote by mail, your ballot will arrive in early October. Early voting starts October 8th. Be sure your registration to vote is up to date. Contact the Tulare County Elections Office if you need to make any changes. Voting is a powerful tool to bring about change!

November Ballot Measures

There are 11 measures on the November ballot. The Public Policy Committee reviewed the ballot measures and determined that most do not address issues in our Public Policy Priorities. We have classified those as “No Position.”

Propositions 1, 4 and 5 have a bearing on our principles, but they include elements that undermine some of our priorities along with elements that support our priorities. The Committee adopted a “Neutral” position on Propositions 1, 4 and 5.

Prop 2: Homeless Housing Bond – SUPPORT

No Place Like Home Act of 2018. Over 130,000 Californians are homeless. A great number of our homeless population suffers from mental illness. Prop 2 allows the use of previously allocated unspent money to be used to provide permanent supportive housing for people who need mental health services and are either currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Women comprise a significant percentage of the homeless. This measure does not involve a new state bond.

Prop 1: Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond – NEUTRAL

Authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to build and preserve affordable homes for veterans and aid veterans in purchasing a farm, home or mobile home. While AAUW priorities do not address issues specifically related to veterans, we do support affordable housing for low income families and many veterans are women. A negative aspect of the measure is that general obligation bonds are paid for from the state’s General Fund, where money is needed for schools, health care, other housing programs and state services.

Prop 4: Children's Hospital Bond - NEUTRAL

Prop 4 would use \$1.5 billion in general obligation bond money to support 5 children's hospitals in the University of California system and other public and private hospitals that serve children. The bond money would be used for construction, expansion, renovation, and equipment projects. On the one hand, this measure supports health care services to children. On the other hand, the use of state funds to support private facilities diverts money from public projects, such as schools.

Prop 5: Property Tax - NEUTRAL

Proposition 5 would amend Proposition 13 (1978) in the State Constitution to allow homebuyers who are age 55 or older or severely disabled to transfer the tax assessed value from their prior home to their new home, no matter (a) the new home's market value; (b) the new home's location in the state; or (c) the number of moves. This measure would assist some older or disabled women when they change residences. However, seniors already are able to retain their property tax base when they move within set parameters - Prop 5 expands that program. The Legislative Analyst states that this would reduce state revenues from property taxes by up to \$1 billion per year. Property taxes are the major source of funding for schools and local services.

NO POSITION on the following measures:

Prop 3: Water Bond - \$8.8 billion in general obligation bonds for managing and developing water resources in ways that benefit the environment.

Prop 6: Gas Tax Repeal - Repeals the recently-enacted 2017 package of taxes and fees approved by the State Legislature to fund transportation projects, removing \$4.7 billion in annual funding earmarked for transportation.

Prop 7: Daylight Saving Time - Authorizes legislature to provide for permanent daylight saving time if federal government changes the law.

Prop 8: Dialysis - A complex measure that would regulate the cost of dialysis treatment by establishing a cap on certain costs.

Prop 10: Repeal Costa Hawkins/Rent Control - Gives local communities the authority to make decisions on rent control based on the housing needs of their communities.

Prop 11: Ambulance Drivers - Allows ambulance providers to require their workers to remain on call during breaks paid at their regular rate.

Prop 12: Farm Animals - Bans the sale of meat from animals that are confined in spaces below specific sizes.

NOTE: Prop 9 (division of the state into three parts) was removed from the ballot by the State Supreme Court.



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

CALLING ALL MEMBERS:

Let's start the year with a new resolution... to take more photos while you are having fun in your AAUW breakout group. Then email them to me for the newsletter. Include a sentence or two explaining what the image is about, and **please put "AAUW Newsletter" in the subject of the email.** I'm sure others would love to hear what you are doing.



Thank you,
Betsy • betsygc@me.com

559.786.5340

Please do not TEXT them to me.
They get lost in my phone. ☺

