



Sequoia News

Notes from the Presidents: Sherri Bentley & Marilyn Rankin

Welcome back to 2018-2019 in AAUW!

Wow, this summer has gone by fast hasn't it? Here it is time to think about our first general meeting coming up on Friday, September 7th at 3:30-5:30 at the Vintage Press. What, you say? Friday and at the Vintage Press? We are looking at some different venues this year because of impacted parking from hospital renovation downtown. We do hope you will be joining us as this first meeting is always a great opportunity to see friends we may not have seen for a time, hear what the programs are for the upcoming year, get our membership directory, and sign up for our favorite sections. Or, if you are interested in starting a new group, just bring a sheet of paper and be sure to share it at the meeting. We are always looking for new interest groups.

Our first guest speaker will be our own Director/Conductor of the Sequoia Symphony, Bruce Kiesling. This is a special treat!

Our program committee has been diligently working to pull together some interesting programs - some inspirational, some entertaining, but all intriguing. Not all of the programs will be on Thursday, depending on venue availability, and not all are at noon. We try to change things up a bit to encourage younger attendees, and last year proved late afternoon was just as popular.

You will also notice a change in the directory. We have added pictures of members who graciously submitted them. Thanks go to Betsy for the pictures, and Maile Melkonian for putting together the directory.

Be sure to notice new members sporting a green ribbon. Make them feel welcome to our group. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Sherri Bentley and Marilyn Rankin

September AAUW Meeting

September 7, 2018
FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR

PROGRAM: "Symphony Sneak Preview"
PRESENTER: Bruce Kiesling, Music
Director/Conductor Sequoia Symphony
Orchestra
LOCATION: Vintage Press
PRICE: \$20.00 serving hors d'oeuvres
TIME: 3:30 to 5:30 P.M.

Dear AAUW Friends,
We are so excited to start out our year with conductor and musical director Bruce Kiesling from the Sequoia Symphony Orchestra. He is a very busy man and we are grateful to have him as a presenter. Bruce has a national profile as a conductor and music educator from coast to coast. He has conducted at Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall and at the Hollywood Bowl. He has conducted such superstars as Stevie Wonder, Juanes and Gloria Estefan, Doc Watson, Natalie Cole and Michael Bolton just to name a few.

Bruce holds graduate degrees from the University of Michigan, The University of Miami, and The University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Bruce not only has prepared many orchestras for performances but has also created several original orchestrations to accompany the legendary rock band "Journey."

Bruce has been a key factor in Sequoia Symphony's success. This is an event you don't want to miss!

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Special Interest Groups

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)



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

TRAVELING TROOPERS: To all Troopers that have traveled in the past and all other interested in traveling with the group, we are having a meeting on Wednesday, September 12th at Valhalla Restaurant at 9:30am. We can discuss the who, what, and where, and anything else we need to discuss to get this group up and traveling. We'll discuss trips or other adventures the group wants to do. Please



Sincerely,
Susan Mathews

Please contact me by phone or email no later than Monday the 3rd.

Make checks out to:
AAUW- Visalia-Sequoia Branch

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

Or email:
smathews18@gmail.com

Phone:
Cell (559) 731-8074. You can also text that number.

Home (559) 739-1449

You will be notified when your reservation is received.

**Look forward to seeing you on
September 7th!**

THIS SHOULD BE A GREAT MEETING

**Your 2018-2019 Yearbook is
Available!**



**Come to the September
7th general meeting
to pick yours up.**

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.

contact me by September 5th so I can make reservations for a room at Valhalla's. 559.924.7944 I'm looking forward to you joining the group. Carol Dias.

COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS: What a great year we had in 2017-2018, with a varied array of truly illuminating programs and excursions! With the input of our dynamic group of gals, this year promises to be just as exciting.



C&CC usually meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. But, with Sept. 3 being Labor Day, and our first general branch meeting scheduled for Sept. 7, our first section meeting for this month will instead be the 2nd Monday:


Monday, September 10: Venue hostess: Carol Glass (3615 W. Mill Creek Dr., Visalia)

Monday, September 17: Venue hostess: Betsy Gaudette-Cross (5941 W. Buena Vista Ct., Visalia)

As per our planning session in June, our first 4 sessions will focus on the state propositions and local measures that will be on our November 6 ballot. Can't get more topical than that!

Contact is Maile Melkonian (802-3315)
"Democracy is not a spectator sport." ~Lotte E Scharfman, former Massachusetts League of Women Voters President.

UNABRIDGED BOOK GROUP: For our August meeting, the Unabridged Book Group enjoyed a fun and chatty lunch at La Piazza

 Ristorante in Tulare. Over the summer we read and discussed "The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane" and "Pachinko". In September our selection is "Before We Were Yours." The Unabridged Ladies do a great job of searching out interesting books to read.

Sorry to say this group is full, but if there are members that want to start a new group, that would be awesome.

Be on the lookout for Green ribbons!

Please be aware of any green ribbons and bows you see at our meetings.

All new members are going to be given a small green ribbon to wear in addition to their name tags. This will help all experienced members know who is new, who should be welcomed, and who should be invited to sit with them at their tables. It will also help new members know who else is new to AAUW.

So please be your welcoming, warm-hearted, and generous selves as we build up our membership and bring in new members.

New members... If you have recently joined AAUW and were not able to attend the informational reception, please feel free to contact me. I will try to answer your questions via email. If there are enough of you that have questions I might try and set up another informational reception to help answer all of those questions you might have. Remember, getting involved is easy and very worthwhile.

Suzanne Babcock Sbabcock123@yahoo.com

LADIES OF AAUW

Did you know that the Visalia Sequoia Branch of AAUW has a special committee designed just for bringing some Sunshine into the lives of our members? If you know of one of our members who is ill, having surgery, going through some medical difficulties, could use a special boost or has lost a loved one, **our Sunshine Committee will send along a card to let that person know she is being thought about by her friends in our Association!**



As soon as you know about any of these occasions, please contact me. Please don't think someone else may have called already. You won't be bothering me and I'd much rather get 3 notices about the same person than none!

Email me @ gregren@sbcglobal.net or call one of the following numbers: (559) 627-3085 (home), (559) 260-9646 (cell) I check both emails and phone messages often. ☺

Renella Smith

Welcome to our new members!

Denise Fletcher

Denise was born and raised in Southern California. She received her BA in Public Administration from Cal State Fullerton, and then continued her education at Cal State Fresno where she earned her MPA. She worked for many years at Self-Help as a program director. She is involved as a board member for the Sequoia Symphony Orchestra. She is married, has 2 children, 4 step-children, and 8 grandchildren who, along with exercise and travel, take up most of her spare time.

One very special bit of trivia...she received her local AAUW branch scholarship as she moved onto college! Welcome to AAUW, Denise!

Cheryl Johnson

Cheryl graduated from Fresno State in 2007 with a degree in Women's Studies at the age of 57! She had previously worked as a nurse in many capacities. She recently became a widow, and she has three grown children. She loves to travel and is new to Visalia. We hope you make Cheryl feel welcome in our branch.

Allison Babcock

Allison received her Associates Degree in Health Care Administration from SJVC. She then decided to get her BA in Business, specializing in Health Care Management from Capella University on their Flex plan. She is currently working online as a legal transcriptionist for a company located in Jerusalem. Her interests are doing agility with her Rottweiler, Odin, as well as learning to crochet. She is looking forward to meeting new people and getting involved in some new opportunities.

Merry Keller

Merry received her BS in Management from Pepperdine University in 1986, and continued her education at University of Phoenix where she got her MBA in 1991.

She was a member of Sigma Kappa and the Business/Professional Advertising Association as well. She retired in 2009 after spending many years in the development and management of technical and marketing publications as well as educational materials for various companies, large and small. Her hobbies include sewing, cross stitch, art and enjoying classical music. She and her fiancé are planning to be married later this year.

Savannah Day

Savannah received her AA degree from COS in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Sociology. She then continued her education at Fresno Pacific where she graduated with a BA in Social Welfare. She is currently working as the office assistant for Rise Church. She is actively looking for a full time job where she can interact with people. She is a very social young lady who hopes to get involved in many AAUW activities and interest groups.

Leslie Minium

Welcome to Leslie, who just happens to be the sister of our very own Susan Cunningham! Leslie has lived in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Southern California and Tuolumne County. She received her BA in History and MA in Education from CSU Long Beach. After she retired from teaching, she was a docent at the Columbia State Historic Park in Columbia where she got to lead school tours, do interactive video lessons, and get kids excited about the gold rush and California history. She has three children, seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. She hopes to enjoy all that Visalia has to offer and is already looking forward to meeting new people at the symphony and at the many AAUW activities she plans to enjoy.

All You Ever Wanted To Know About Book Sorting & MORE

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.

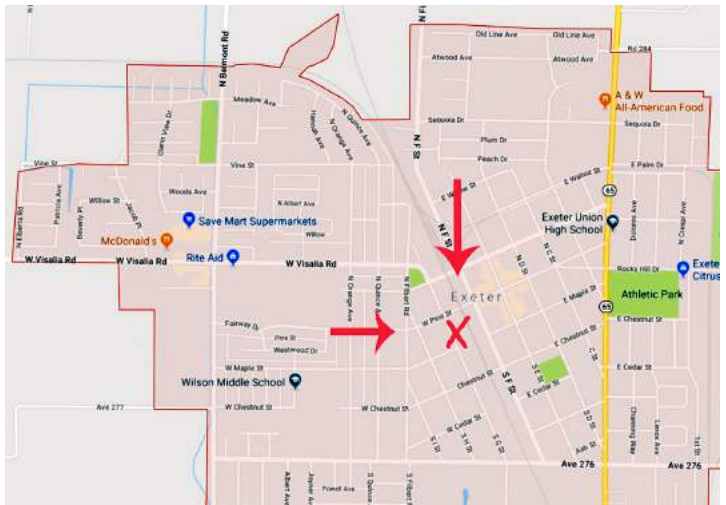
After the last bag sale day...we still have many books left. So the next morning a few volunteers show up to clean up our sale location and deal with the leftover books. Mark Thompson boxes up those books. He donates them to prison ministry, the Bob Wylie Detention Center, 4H, Mennonite Thrift Store, 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. Since the sorters have not been able to deliver books to the shed, clean up after repair, and sort so many books, we will be calling out for help soon to ask members to pitch in and help out so we can be ready for October. It's easy to learn what to do, and actually fun to do. So please think about helping out. We really hope you will help us out.

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.

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. (*Don't forget to
get yours at the first
meeting on September 7th
at 3:30. Vintage Press)



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. 😊

We LOVE HAVING YOU AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS. So hopefully you can come on September 7th. 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.

