



Visalia-Sequoia Inc. (CA) Branch

# Sequoia News

## Notes from the Presidents: Sherri Bentley & Marilyn Rankin

We hope all of you are enjoying the beautiful winter days that bring stunning views of our snow-capped mountains. We also hope you are enjoying a big part of AAUW which is participating in one of the many interesting Sections. Check out the list on page 2 for a few of the section's announcements. The photo (on pg. 2) shows a few of the book sorters on Monday from 8:30-10:00 at Exeter Sequoia Packing house. They are proudly standing by empty sorting tables. The empty tables mean that on that particular Monday all books were sorted at the end of the session - which doesn't happen very often.

Tech Trek is the wonderful STEM program for girls sponsored by AAUW. Middle school students are selected to attend one of ten camps throughout the state. Girls attend the camp located on a college campus and are exposed to information regarding the career paths in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The AAUW state level is looking for volunteers to assist in the coordination and operation of this meaningful program. If you would like more information about volunteering you can access the state website at [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org)

Speaking of volunteering, the State AAUW is accepting nominations for a Director at Large, a CFO and a President Elect. Willing candidates for these State AAUW positions should let Sherri or Marilyn know so that the nomination form can be submitted prior to the election in April.

Our state Public Policy Committee lists bills impacting the AAUW mission and, again, that list can be accessed on the AAUW website. On a national level AAUW is supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act. The majority of our dues support the national advocacy AAUW employs, so it is important to keep abreast of the activities and offer

## FEBRUARY AAUW Meeting

February 21, 2019

**When:** February 21, 2019

**Time:** 11:30 - 1:30

**Where:** Left of Center

Speaker: Fawn Pender, Historical Speaker

Cost: \$18.00

RSVP By: February 16<sup>th</sup>

**Menu:** Champagne Chicken, Tossed Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Rolls & Butter, Dessert

Fawn is back again! Her topic of "Women's Liberation Through Lingerie" last year was not only entertaining but delightfully informative. It made us realize how much today's lingerie has liberated us! Dressed as Louisa Mae Alcott, Fawn Pender will bring to life and entertain us as she tells us about Louisa and her family. **You won't want to miss it!**

Please send your reservations in by **February 16th**. Send your reservation to:

**Nancy Lee Jones**  
6018 W School Ct.  
Visalia, CA 93291

email: [Nancyleejones66@gmail.com](mailto:Nancyleejones66@gmail.com)  
phone: 559.732.2395

input and direction to this arm of AAUW.

Wishing you all a Happy Valentine's Day and a pleasant February.

Sherri Bentley and Marilyn Rankin

## Special Interest Groups

**BOOK SORTING:** Sorting all of the books is really fun! The Sorters meet EVERY Monday from 8:30-10:00 in Exeter. Text/call Betsy Gaudette-Cross if you want a map of where to go. 559.786.5340



Pictured from left to right: Anne Skinner, Sandra Parmelly, Susan Cunningham, and Jean Moritz.

**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!

**BRIDGE LESSONS:** CALLING ALL PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY BRIDGE. Want to learn how to play bridge - or refresh your skills? I am not sure I can do as well as Margo, but let's give it a try. Please give me a call ([734-0751](tel:734-0751)) or e-mail ([Liz-k@att.net](mailto:Liz-k@att.net)) and we will work out a time that works for all. Liz Kieske

**BOOKWORMS:** The Bookworms will be meeting on Friday, February 1 at 1:00 at Liz Kieske's home. The book selected for February is "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean. Anyone is welcome to join us, just please call or email ([tkold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tkold@sbcglobal.net)) to let us know you are coming. Questions? Call Kathy Oldershaw 909-1333 or 733-6472

**COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS:** Topics for this month were still being decided at press time, so please stay tuned. Maile will e-mail regular participants with the details as they emerge.

**The dates and locations are:**

**Monday, February 4 (10:15am)**

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

**Monday, February 18 (10:15am)**

**Venue hostess: Sue McCallister (5025 W. Concord Ave., Visalia)**

Our March 18 (10:30am) meeting will be an excursion to Visalia's brand-new purple-pipe water processing treatment plant--the fifth largest of its kind in the country, and ranking among the world's top 25! Any water flowing through purple pipes is not quite pure enough for human consumption, but clean enough to be used in agriculture. We'll be learning about Visalia's innovative water swap contract with Tulare Irrigation District, and more. The plant is located southwest of the 198/99 junction. We'll be doing this tour in conjunction with the League of Women Voters. The tour is free, but reservations must be made. Let Maile know if you plan to attend.

Contact: Maile Melkonian (802-3315)

**GREAT DECISIONS:** Our lively discussion of foreign affairs continues! The two sessions this month are:

**February 12 on "The Middle East: Regional Disorder"**

**February 26 on "Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?"**

The series runs through mid May, meeting every other Tuesday, 7:00-9:00pm, at C.O.S. in Hospital Rock Bldg., Room 133.

Contacts:

Maile Melkonian, Carol Finney, Betsy Gaudette-Cross

# Attention

## BOOK SALE VOLUNTEERING

Check your calendar and block off the dates of our spring AAUW book sale: March (yes, March!) 26th is set up day; **March 27th-April 1** (no fooling!) is the sale; clean up is April 2nd. Contact Susan Cunningham to book your favorite time slots. Text /call: 559.901.5545.

Email [gicasusan@gmail.com](mailto:gicasusan@gmail.com). Remember that Saturday and evenings are our hardest shifts to cover, so if you can spare a few hours consider those first. Thank you so much for all who help us reach our AAUW goals!

## FROM THE AAUW NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

### A New Day for Women

The year has barely begun, and women are already shattering records and making history. When the new Congress convened in January, nearly a quarter of its voting membership was comprised of women — the highest percentage ever. And women now hold roughly 28 percent of state executive positions. While women remain underrepresented in business, government and nonprofits — and even more progress is needed among the ranks of elected officials — this achievement is worth celebrating. After all, just 10 years ago, the percentage of women in Congress hovered around 16 percent. Having diverse new voices in policymaking will matter as AAUW embarks on an ambitious agenda to advance equity laws at the state and federal levels.

The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to

## Cut & Save



Thursday February 21	Left of Center 11:30-1:00 Speaker: Fawn Pender Louisa Mae Alcott & Family
Thursday March 14	Lamp Litter Inn 4:30-6:00 Speaker: Missy Yavasile Soar to College/Scholarship Planning
Friday April 5	St. Paul Fellowship Hall 5:00-6:00 Speakers: Participants from Tech Trek & Expanding Horizons
Saturday May 11	Scholarship Reception 2-4:00 Congregation B'nai David

take up many AAUW priorities this coming year, including the imminent introduction of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963, help women challenge pay discrimination, and give employers incentives to comply with the law. [Ask your members of Congress to co-sponsor this important legislation.](#)





# January 19, 2019 Women's March for Women's Rights



When was the last time you visited the AAUW National site? Check it out if you have a chance.  
<https://www.aauw.org>

And of course, you can check out our local site where we have a calendar, the newsletter, information on different activities, the new-member application, and other resources.  
<https://visaliasequoia-ca.aauw.net>

**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 sign up for the monthly meeting and don't show up, you are still responsible for paying for your lunch because we are charged. Thank you.

### 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](mailto:betsygc@me.com)

# facebook

Are you on Facebook? Be sure and check out our local AAUW Facebook page. And also, feel free to post things that you did with members or in your breakout group.

Let's keep everyone connected and informed. Thanks.

