



Sequoia News

Notes from the Presidents: Sherri Bentley & Marilyn Rankin

There were many compliments for the timeliness of our Program Committee's selection for the meeting March 21st. AAUW members and guests heard Missy Yavasile, of *Soar College Planning*, relate information regarding college admission and **legal strategies** for gaining acceptance to one's college of choice. There was much audience participation and much learned from the presentation. Thank you Phyllis Matteson, Susan Mathews and Nancy Jones for yet another delightful meeting.

Our own scholarship committee has just finished interviewing candidates for the COS scholarships. Our May meeting will introduce the scholarship recipients to the membership. As always, you will be so inspired when you meet them.

As we look at our year and our focus on equality for women and children we note that April 2nd is Equal Pay Day. The concept of equal pay for equal work regardless of gender is a long time coming to some areas of our work force.

April will also be a time to renew our **dues on-line**. It is easier for our branch membership chair and treasurer if we **renew online**. AAUW National no longer accepts checks, so for us to collect locally and then sending money to National is cumbersome. Easier if we all just send to National so they credit our branch the \$11 that we receive for each member. The majority of the dues money is dedicated to the National Committee of AAUW that advocates aggressively for issues dealing with equality for women.

Our next meeting is another late afternoon meeting, Friday, April 5 and the venue will be St. Paul's Church Fellowship Hall. Learning about two

APRIL AAUW Meeting

APRIL 5, 2019 MEETING

When: April 5th

Where: St. Paul's Church
Fellowship Hall

Time: 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Program: Tech Trek & Expanding Horizons
No Cost to attend

This is such an uplifting, heart-warming program. Our girls are so excited and thrilled to share with us. It is such a gift to come and listen to them describe their adventures, projects and plans for their futures. Hope to see you there!

Please give a call, text or email so we have an approximate number for snacks.

Phyllis Matteson

559.732.1988

559.300.5022

AAUW sponsored opportunities for girls-Tech Trek and Expanding Horizons- will be the presentation. Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you there.

Co-Presidents:

Marilyn Rankin and Sherri Bentley

**COMING UP - YOU DON'T WANT
TO MISS THIS!**

**Saturday
May 11**

**Scholarship Reception 2-4:00
Congregation B'nai D**

Special Interest Groups

GREAT DECISIONS: Our foreign policy discussion Briefing Book readings have provided thought-provoking springboards for some lively analysis. The topics continue to be extremely current. The two sessions this month are:

April 9 on "Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics"

April 23 on "The U.S. and Mexico: Partnership Tested"

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

COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS - Monday, April 1 (10:15am)

Topic: "What's Up with the P.U.C.?" Speaker: Our own Terry Cornelius Program Liaison: Terry Cornelius **Venue Hostess:** Sue McCallister (5025 W. Concord Ave., Visalia) **Munchies co-hostess:** Dona Meinhardt.

With PG&E filing for bankruptcy and more and more consumer complaints about services provided by utilities and telecom giants, the P.U.C. is in the news more than usual. Terry will provide a primer on an agency that is supposed to function as our watchdog.

Monday, April 15 (10:30am), Topic: "Lindsay's 'Functional Bankruptcy'", Speaker: Paul Myers, Sun Gazette editor, **Program Liaison:** Sue McCallister, **Venue Hostess:** Donna Kindschuh (1338 N. Ranch Ct., Visalia)

What is a "functional bankruptcy"? How did our small-town neighbor in Tulare County find themselves in this position, and how are they coping? And is there a cautionary tale here for the rest of us?

Contact: Maile Melkonian (802-3315)

Here is the mighty group of Book Sorters on the last day of sorting before the sale! They are AWESOME!



Yearbook/Directory Notice

Editor Maile Melkonian is trying to get a head start on next year's yearbook/directory. If anyone is aware of any data updates (new phone numbers, addresses, etc.), information gaps that need to be filled (education degrees, dates, etc.) that need to be corrected, please let her know.

Thanks!

Book Sale News

By the time you receive this newsletter, our AAUW Spring Book Sale will have come to another successful end. Our continued success relies on the work and partnerships of many throughout our organizations and others in our community.

DID YOU KNOW...

We have a dedicated core group of about 25 ladies who faithfully sort the myriad books we receive every week? **Sandy Parmelly**, our warehouse supervisor, is tireless in her dedication to our efforts. Week after week, she culls, stacks and makes trash runs always with a smile on her face at our warehouse in Exeter. Member **Carol Bixler** and her hubby David volunteer their trailer to haul our books to the mall thus saving us the cost of another truck rental?

We have a partnership with COS athletes to load our thousands of books into our trucks for transportation to Sequoia Mall? The COS Baseball team muscles up for the fall sale and the COS Football team lifts it up at our spring sale. AAUW contributes to the Athletic Department through the COS Foundation for this support.

We also team up with Redwood High School FBLA students to unload the books at the Mall? We annually fund a scholarship for an FBLA student as recommended by advisor Jacob Avila.

Clean up requires a massive effort by many people including Gene Sheesley of the Breakfast Kiwanis Club? Gene provides his truck for hauling supplies back to the warehouse in Exeter. The Kiwanians recently built a book kiosk at the Anthony Center and stocks it with books. We happily contribute a monthly box of books from our stash as a thank you to Gene and the Kiwanians.

So as you can see, staging our AAUW Book Sale requires the help of our community and us. I hope you will join the book sorters and COS Scholarship Recipients at our May 11th meeting. You will meet some amazing young women and men determined to make their mark in the world and the ladies of AAUW are happy to help them. My thanks to all of you for all your help!

Jan Johnson

Dues 2019-2020

It is the season! In April please watch your e-mail inbox for an invoice coming from National AAUW. This email has a way of paying dues online with credit or debit card. You do not even need to know your number since it is already stored on the national roster. This is the easiest way to make sure your dues are paid. A receipt of payment is sent immediately to your email box

Hopefully you can take care of this as soon as is convenient. Please note that National AAUW no longer takes checks for dues, only credit or debit card. If check is your only way of paying, you can send it to me at:

AAUW Visalia-Sequoia Branch
P. O. Box 6
Visalia, CA 93279.

Make checks out to AAUW. We will deposit it and use our bank credit/debit card to submit your renewal.

Jean Moritz
Membership Treasurer

"Purple Pipe (Water) Processing Plant Perusal"

The City of Visalia Waste Water Treatment Plant, southwest of the 198/99 junction, was our Coffee and California Concerns March 18th meeting. The 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 was very interesting. Any water flowing through purple pipes is not quite pure enough for human consumption, but clean enough to be used in agriculture. We learned about Visalia's innovative water swap contract with Tulare Irrigation District, and more. We did this tour in conjunction with the League of Women Voters. At \$152 million, it's the biggest public works project Visalia has ever undertaken. The tour is free, but reservations must be made if you are ever interested in going. Go see what your tax dollars have made possible!



COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS -

Please Read - At our C&CC meeting on March 4th we arranged to have Dr. Ross Gentry, former Superintendent of Schools for Allensworth School District, as our guest speaker. He provided us with some personal stories as well as some historical background information about the community of Allensworth. We have an excursion planned for May 20th to visit this unique community and these stories and anecdotes will serve as a great reference point for our "field trip". **Dr. Gentry emphasized the need for books for the little library that they have begun at the school as well as books for home libraries. They also would love volunteers to help with the library (sorting and organizing or reading to students during and after school). If you have books or time that you would like to donate please contact: Ross Gentry - Phone (559) 467-8282 or [email gentry.ross@gmail.com](mailto:gentry.ross@gmail.com)**

Are You Getting Your Emails?

If you are not receiving emails from me, Betsy Gaudette-Cross, either for the newsletter or email-blasts, PLEASE LET ME KNOW! You should be getting an electronic email (newsletter) within the first week of each month. I always put "AAUW" in the subject of any email I send you; so keep your eyes out for that. I have been having trouble with my email server, so please let me know if you are not getting information from me.

