



Visalia-Sequoia Inc. (CA) Branch

# Sequoia News

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

**We are looking forward to our end of the year Scholarship Reception on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4:00 at Congregation B'Nai David.** It is such a pleasure to meet our recipients and hear their inspiring life stories. So, let's represent our branch well by having super attendance. The recipients are incredible and anxious to meet us. *These scholarships are what "it's all about"!*

Our April book sale did well with an abundance of books, earning \$16,400+ to fund our scholarships and programs. While that is somewhat less than in previous years, it is still excellent. Thanks go to the book sorters, the scheduler, the student movers from Redwood High, and the over 70 members who gave time to sell books. Well done, ladies.

**We strongly urge you to continue your membership in AAUW by using the link sent to you in April from Membership Treasurer Jean Moritz.** It is super easy, all you need to do is click the link, and enter your payment with a card. Your membership number and info are already included for you. The national AAUW now requires our branch payments to be totally electronic this year, but this is good. It is faster and more efficient to renew by computer. Jean will still accept checks written, but that slows the process tremendously. **If you inadvertently lost the e-mail, Jean can resend it to you.** Many of you have already submitted your renewal, thank you. We hope we have 100% renewals completed by the end of June, but do it now, if you can. Membership is still \$90.

Thanks to Jeanne Evans, Jane Grassel, (Tech Trek) and Lori Olvera- Clarkson (Expanding Horizons)

## MAY AAUW Meeting

May 11, 2019 MEETING

**PROGRAM:** Scholarship Reception  
**WHEN:** May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:00 pm  
**WHERE:** Congregation B'nai David  
1039 S Chinowth, Visalia

Come and listen to our scholarship recipients tell their stories. Their dedication and enthusiasm to continue their education is heart-warming. What a wonderful way to culminate our program year!

A call, email or text would be most appreciated to let us know how many will be attending.

**Phyllis Matteson**

Phone – 559-732-1988  
Cell/Text – 559-300-5022

Email [rapmat@aol.com](mailto:rapmat@aol.com)

who brought several inspiring young ladies to talk to us at the April meeting about their experiences at the two camps. Those programs are also funded from our book sales, and are such worthy causes promoting science, technology, engineering and math for girls.

If you are aware of members who have left us, please inform Maile, Jean and Betsy.

It has been an honor to work with our board of directors, to serve you this year.

Sincerely,

Sherri Bentley and Marilyn Rankin

## Special Interest Groups

### COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS -

**Monday, May 6 (10:15am)**

**Topic: "The Nexus between Climate Change and Legislation"**

**Speaker:** Devin Carroll, Team Leader, Citizens' Climate Lobby--Fresno

**Program Liaison:** Terry Cornelius

**Venue hostess:** Rosemary Jackson (1146 W. Hemlock Ave., Visalia)

**Munchies co-hostess:** Phyllis Ogden

We're hearing a lot in the news about "The Green New Deal," an aspirational concept being floated by some in Congress. But it is not a bill. What are some of the legislative solutions being offered? How practical are they? Can they even be passed? And what's happening locally? Come find out about one group's approach.

**Monday, May 20 (8:45am carpool, 10:00 presentation, 11:00 State Park tour--\$6/car)**

**Topic:** "Allensworth Excursion"

**Guides/Speakers:** Kayode & Denise Kadara, residents and second-generation advocates

**Program Liaison:** Susan Kreps

**Venue:** Allensworth Community Center (8123 Avenue 36 (= Young Road))

We will visit this fascinating town, which is also a state park. We'll learn about this unique attempt in California to create a livable community for African-Americans, and what its demographics are today. This topic intersects with those of affordable housing, water shortages, racism, poverty in our area, and self-government. The docent at the State Park would like to have an idea of how many from our group will be attending, so please RSVP to Maile by May 16. Directions will be sent when you RSVP. 8:45am carpool from Mary's Vineyard parking lot, near Country Waffles.

**Monday, June 3 (10:15am)**

**Topic: Brainstorming ideas for next year's C&CC topics**

**Speakers:** We're all involved!

**Venue hostess:** Betsy Gaudette-Cross (5941 W.

## Newly elected Board of officers for AAUW Sequoia Branch, 2019-2020

Co- Presidents: Marilyn Rankin, Liz Kieske

Presidents elect: Susan Cunningham, Maile Melkonian

Program Vice Presidents: Susan Mathews, Phyllis Matteson, Sherri Bentley

Membership Vice President: Suzanne Babcock

Membership Treasurer: Jean Moritz

Treasurer: Sue McCallister

Financial Director: Jill Rojas

Secretary: Marsha Brooks-Smith

Communications Director/Newsletter: Betsy Gaudette-Cross

Sequoia Branch Honored Member Gift Fund: Nancy Holmes

Publicity/Social Media: Allison Babcock

## The AAUW Directory

It's almost time for Maile to start working on next year's directory. Please take a moment to look at your information to make sure that the name is spelled correctly, as well as the address, email, and phone number. If it isn't, please notify her the corrections. AND...if you haven't already done so, send in your picture, please, please, please. Thank you.

Buena Vista Ct., Visalia, off Akers, north of Goshen Ave.)

**Potluck: Sign up for salad, dessert or whatever sounds good to you.** This is our annual opportunity to shape what C&CC will be doing next year by talking about which issues are on our minds and what we're collectively curious about. It's also a chance to just socialize! Maile Melkonian is the C&CC contact, but she will not have access to phone or e-mail until May 5. Feel free to leave messages, but don't expect responses until May 6 or so.

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](#)

## Spring Book Sale

Once again, our Book Sale was a great success! Our final total was \$16,429.75. Thanks to everyone who worked shifts, sorted, put up a sign or helped clean up. As the saying goes, "it takes a village" to put on a Book Sale! If you still have any yard signs, please get them to Suzanne Babcock or bring them to our next meeting. Our book sorters are back to work at the warehouse and our fall book sale will be here before we know it. If you're interested in learning about doing book sorting, contact me. We always welcome more hands.

***Please join us in May for our scholarship meeting.*** Every year our scholarship winners are amazing students who continue to assure me that our future is in good hands. You will enjoy meeting them. Again — great work, Ladies! Thank you all!  
~ Jan Johnson

We have many returning customers at every AAUW book sale, but my favorite regular is this little boy. He's attended every sale that has happened in his lifetime. I think that is eight sales! Hopefully we can keep our wonderful sale going for many years for our faithful book lovers! ~ Susan Cunningham



# Attention

## DUES ARE DUE

An email from AAUW was sent to all our inboxes March 31<sup>st</sup> and again at the first of May. You might find this the easiest, quickest way to take care of 2019-2020 dues. A few simple clicks and it's done, and you receive a receipt immediately. Dues are \$90, the same as last year. Dues are delinquent as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. By paying now you can ensure that your name will be in the new directory that Maile Melkonian is now preparing for our upcoming year.

As you know, National AAUW will no longer accept checks, only debit and credit card payments. If checks are your method of paying dues, please send check in to me at AAUW, P.O. Box 6, Visalia, CA, 93279.

Jean Moritz • Membership Treasurer

## From the COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS Group-

Dr. Ross Gentry, former Superintendent of Schools for Allensworth School District is looking for some help. **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.ros@gmail.com](mailto:gentry.ros@gmail.com)**

Those of you who have already paid your dues... Jean Moritz is VERY grateful.



**2019 – AAUW California Elections is a three-week voting period that begins April 22nd and ends on May 13th, 2019. Please click on the link below and let your voice be heard.** If the link doesn't work, you should have received an email around April 22nd. Thank you

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=WUXSt1j\\_2B9SJTY1DgVmQO6Q\\_3D\\_3D](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=WUXSt1j_2B9SJTY1DgVmQO6Q_3D_3D)

Terry Cornelius

## Great Decisions ~ Discussion Group

We are wrapping up a thought-provoking and informative season of foreign policy discussion with a real doozy--something that has never before been an explicit topic in Great Decisions. This month's session is:

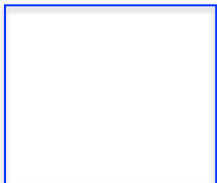
### May 7 on "The State of the State Department and American Diplomacy"

Great Decisions meets from 7:00 to 9:00pm, at C.O.S. in Hospital Rock Bldg., Room 133.

Thanks to all of you who have participated this year. It's been a wonderful four months of civil discourse. (Don't forget to fill out your survey.)

#### Contacts:

Maile Melkonian  
Carol Finney  
Betsy Gaudette-Cross



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