



Sequoia News

MARCH AAUW Program

March 19, 2020
(Thursday) 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Location: The Vintage Press Restaurant
Program: The ABC's of SGMA
Presenter: Greg Collins, Visalia City Council, principal, Collins & Schoetter Planning Consultants
Cost: \$23.00, tea and hor d'oeuvres

The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is affecting all of us, particularly since the effects of drought have been felt in our valley. We will get an update on the health of our precious aquifer, the innovative plans in Tulare County to protect our water resources, and what to expect as the law continues to roll out.

Don't be left in the dark about something so important! **Reserve your space now!**

Send checks to Sherri Bentley **before March 17.**
address: 2821 S. Kent Ct., Visalia CA 93277
or call
559.625.2448
559.288-.5429

Notes from the Presidents: Marilyn Rankin & Liz Kieske

How fun was the performance of "Beehive" at The Ice House Theater! All the performers were great (kudos to our own Susan Mathews) and the songs brought back so many memories. It was a great afternoon and we had a fun group of members.

We look forward to our next meeting on March 19th. The topic, groundwater sustainability, is so important and we could all use more information on it.

The nominating committee is now looking for people to serve in a few positions for next year. (Maybe treasure and co-vice president) Any volunteers would be gratefully appreciated. None of the jobs are onerous and getting to work with new friends is most enjoyable. Try it, you'll like it!

Signups for the book sale in April will be coming up soon. The first day is April 21st - April 26th. If you haven't ever worked the sale, you should sign up for a shift. It's lots of fun and easy. Without all the support from our members we would not have the money for all our scholarships. Please watch the newsletter for more information.

*May your troubles be less
And your blessings be more
And nothing but happiness
Come through your door.
Irish Blessing*

A graphic for St. Patrick's Day. The words 'HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!' are written in a large, green, blocky font. A green shamrock is positioned to the left of the word 'DAY!'. The entire graphic is enclosed in a green rectangular border.

Cut & Save

March 19, 2020 (Thursday) 3:30pm–5:00pm
Location: The Vintage Press,
Program: “The ABCs of SGMA”

April 16, 2020 (Thursday) 11:30am–1:00pm
Location: The Vintage Press
Program: “Reflections on the 63rd
U.N. Convention on the Status of Women—
Inspiration!”

May 16, 2020 (Saturday) 2:00pm–4:00pm
Location: Congregation B’nai David,
1039 S. Chinowth St.
Event: Scholarship Reception

GREAT DECISIONS: Come join the conversation!

We continue our discussion of geographic regions and international issues of importance, through this Foreign Policy Association series. It is sponsored in Visalia by A.A.U.W., in partnership with C.O.S. We meet five more times, at Hospital Rock on C.O.S. campus, Tuesdays evenings at 7:00-9:00. This month's dates and topics are:

March 10 -- Human Trafficking

March 24 -- The Northern Triangle

Come join the conversation!

Contacts are: Maile Melkonian, Carol Finney and Betsy Gaudette-Cross.

Holiday Tea Silent Auction and Raffle Report

Thank you to the many AAUW members who contributed to the success of the holiday fundraiser. We made \$810.00! As the board directs, \$750.00 of the money would be donated to the national AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund to qualify for the Named Gift Honor for the next year. We have already qualified to award a 2020 Named Gift Honor. This honor goes to someone who goes above and beyond the norm to ensure the success of our local AAUW programs.

Special Interest Group

Coffee & California Concerns: This section is for those of you who are interested in intimate discussions of local and state issues and policies. Here are the details:



Monday, March 2 (10:15am)

Topic: Education: "Cultivating an Equitable Learning Environment"

Speaker: Brandon Gridiron, V.U.S.D. Equity & Student Services Administrator

Venue hostess: Carol Finney (2106 S. Anthony Ct.; past Akers, off Walnut)

Program Prep: Terry Cornelius

Mr. Gridiron holds a brand-new position within Visalia Unified School District, with a mandate to encourage tolerance, inclusion and activities among high school students. Come hear all about it.

Monday, March 16 (10:15am)

Topic: Homelessness: What's Being Done Locally?

Speaker: Mayor Bob Link

Venue hostess: Betsy Gaudette-Cross (5941 W. Buena Vista Ct.; north of Goshen Ave., off Akers)

Program Prep: Karen Feezell and Terry Cornelius

More than one task force has been formed in Visalia to tackle this issue, perennially of deep concern to local residents. Who's doing what? Is progress being made? What new ideas are out there?

Maile Melkonian is the C&CC contact.

AAUW Celebrates Centennial of Women's Right to Vote!

This year marks the centennial of women's right to vote in the U.S., and A.A.U.W. kicked it off in style on January 21 with a joint commemoration with the League of Women Voters of Tulare County, at the Marriott Hotel. The festivities opened with mock Suffragists, all in period white with purple sashes and placards in hand, marching in while chanting their demands for democratic equality—just as they did a hundred years ago in front of the Wilson White House and across the nation. Keynote speaker Angelica Shirley Carpenter brought that history alive for us through the story in her latest book, "Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage, Radical Suffragist"—about one of the crucial, but lesser-known, leaders of the movement. Carpenter's well researched slides helped us imagine the times. With a hundred in attendance, the celebration was as lively as it was memorable.

Let's all be inspired by Carpenter's tales of how hard it was for women to earn suffrage: Be sure to vote in California's early Primary, March 3!"



Susan Mathews and Maile Melkonian get into the spirit of the celebration as women's rights activists a century apart--Susan as a 1960s women's-libber (in her "Beehive" costume!), and Maile as a Suffragist from the 1860s. Behind them is an 1896 Visalia Daily Times article chronicling the appearance of Susan B. Anthony and League of Women Voters founder Carrie Chapman Catt in Visalia.

Don't miss the 2-page coverage of the event in the February issue of LifeStyle Magazine!





BOOK SALE DONATIONS

We seem to be falling short on our numbers of books to sell in April. Believe it or not, we're not even sorting in Exeter on some Mondays **because we don't have enough books!**



DID YOU KNOW...?

March 3rd is the new date for the California Primary!

It's too late to register and vote in the primary, but if you know of anyone who needs to register, change their address, change their party or how they receive their ballot, they can register for the general election in November. Tell them to open up a phone's camera and point it at the QR Code. Please be sure you use your voice and **VOTE!**



QR CODE FOR THE CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE'S WEBSITE
REGISTER OR PREREGISTER TO VOTE!

Remember that almost all of our book sale proceeds fund our 3 main projects: COS scholarships, Tech Trek, and Expanding Horizons. When you, your friends, or your family start your spring cleaning this month, please consider donating sellable books to our AAUW Book Sale. If you box up the books, one of our trusty sorters will pick them up from your house at your convenience!

Just call or text us:
Sandy Parmelly 559-936-1891
Susan Cunningham 559-901-5545
THANK YOU!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: LOOKING FOR A COMPLETELY REWARDING WAY TO HELP AAUW?

The AAUW scholarship committee has the pleasure of selecting the COS transfer students who will receive scholarships from our chapter. Each year our presidents choose a new member to serve on the committee.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, you'll want to know what it involves. Each member is on the committee for 3 years, the last year as chairperson. Your duties include reviewing candidate computer applications at your convenience at home in January or February. Then the committee meets to select the recipients. One morning in early March, they interview the finalists. It's also nice if you're able to attend the COS scholarship night and our local AAUW scholarship celebration meeting in May.

If you would like to join this committee, please contact our co-presidents:

Marilyn Rankin (559)901-9109
Liz Kieske (559)734-0751

Need non-partisan information on the upcoming election?

League of Women Voters of California
<https://lwvc.org>

Voters Edge – Get the facts before you vote
www.votersedge.org/ca

Google “Guide to voting in California”
California Easy Voter Guide – came up with the state site.
www.easyvoterguide.org

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>

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

Have you liked us on Facebook yet? We are posting pictures and information that you might want to know about on our AAUW Visalia Facebook page. Please join the group. Plus we would love for you to add to the page too, either stories or pictures from an event or anything you think our group would enjoy.

Attention All Members

We have a vertical AAUW banner that has a stand, and NO ONE knows where it is. Do you have it in your garage or home? Call Betsy, 559.786.5340 if you know anything about it's whereabouts.

Pat Foster's phone number in the Directory/Yearbook is slightly incorrect. It should be:
559.733.2476
Mobile: 559.287.8803
Email: patricianfoster@gmail.com

