



Sequoia News

APRIL AAUW Program

As with everything else during this crazy time, the April AAUW program is canceled.

Notes from the Presidents:
Marilyn Rankin & Liz Kieske

AAUW Presidents Message April 2020

My, what unprecedented times. We have had to cancel AAUW activities, which is the same action taken by all other organizations. Hopefully, all of our members will stay well and by summer we will be back to normal. We encourage you to stay well by staying isolated, "Shelter in Place" and keep positive thoughts.

We will not have a Spring Book Sale and this will have ramifications that the Board will deal with as the 2020-21 budget is developed. Any of you who wish to be an officer for 2020-21 please let Liz Kieske know of your willingness to help. We have several unfilled positions.

Stay Well,

Marilyn Rankin and Liz Kieske

AAUW Book Sale

As you are all aware, our spring book sale has been postponed. Currently, we are no longer sorting or picking up books. Because of the uncertainty of our current corona virus situation, we are planning to hold our book sale in the fall. Even if the "stay at home" mandate is lifted this spring, our high school and COS students won't be available to load/unload for us and without them, we cannot operate. Those strong muscles and young backs are absolutely a gift to us. If you get calls or inquiries about book donations, please thank them and explain that we are currently on hiatus until the health situation in our country is resolved.



So, ladies, stay well and we hope to see you all soon and in good health.

Jan Johnson and Sandy Parmelly



MEMERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2020-2021

Coming to your email box in the next day or two will be the message from National AAUW with which you can use to easily pay dues online. Renewal will be \$90.00, the same as last year, of which \$56 is tax deductible. We are planning our 2020-2021 meetings, and by September we hopefully will be resuming our gatherings together, and working on our book sale fundraiser. Please consider paying dues as early as possible, and be watching for that email.

National offers a "Paid Life Membership" for \$1,180.00, the current amount of 20 years of dues. Then dues are considered paid to National AAUW for life.

Special Interest Group

Coffee & California Concerns: As we go to press for the newsletter, nobody knows how long the shelter-in-place directives will be in effect. Our section members had already decided to meet only once this month, due to spring break. COS and others have event moratoria through mid-April. Obviously, these may be extended, depending upon circumstances. For now, the following are the details for our April meeting, subject to change:

Monday, April 20 (10:15am)

Topic: Earth Day Focus: "Regenerative Agriculture"

Speaker: Daniel Garcia, sustainable agriculture advocate

Venue hostess: Karen Feezell (1819 S. Irma St.; off Pinkham, north of Walnut)

Program Prep: Terry Cornelius & Mary Ann Bringhurst

Apropos of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, we'll be looking at ways that agriculture--our county's largest industry--can change for the better. More and more, as human population increases, we are beginning to understand that increasing yields is not the only urgency for ag. Ensuring that our resources--soil, water, air--remain viable for the future is crucial to our success as a species. So, what are some of these new ideas?

Maile Melkonian is the C&CC contact.

Great Decisions

This Foreign Policy Association discussion series is sponsored in Visalia by A.A.U.W., in partnership with C.O.S. We meet at Hospital Rock on C.O.S. campus, Tuesday evenings at 7:00-9:00.

Our March 10 session on "Human Trafficking" generated quite a bit of thoughtful discussion, concern about how this issue affects Tulare County directly, and introspection on what can be done on the local and individual levels.

Due to coronavirus concerns, C.O.S. has a moratorium in effect banning classroom and non-academic gatherings on campus through spring break, which ends April 13. Thus, our March 24 session was canceled. It is entirely possible that this ban will be extended till the end of the semester but, at press time for the newsletter, this hasn't happened yet. For the time being, this month's dates and topics are:

April 14 -- China in Latin America

April 28 -- The Philippines

We will update participants a few days before each of these dates, to let folks know what the current situation is.

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

Volunteer Visalia

Last month, VV was busy at our sewing machines making PJs for children in CASA. This is an activity that Volunteer Visalia has been doing the last several years. As you can see, we made flannel pj bottoms and paired them with T shirts for delivery.



Lisa Silva, Carol Sonier, Janice Crenshaw, Suzanne Babcock and Jan Johnson measured, cut, sewed and ironed making 21 sets of pjs. A good time was had by all for a good cause to our community.

Sequoia Branch Honored Member Committee

If you know someone who makes a significant contribution in time and effort serving the goals of our local AAUW branch, it is time to nominate her to be our honored member for 2020.

If you want to help choose the honored member, I would love for you to join our committee. We will be having a meeting via FaceTime or phone sometime in April. Just let me know if you want to join the group and also please send your nominations to Nancy Holmes at nancyholmes72@yahoo.com or text at (559)901-7536. Help us bestow this honor on one of our tireless members! The honor will be announced on May 16th at our end-of-year meeting.

Have you ever been to the AAUW National website? There is a page called "What We Do". It talks about four different issues that AAUW focuses on. Check it out if you have a chance.
<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/>

Do You Know What a Two-Minute Activist Is?

AAUW National has a page on their website about being a Two-Minute Activist. This is what it is.



Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most. With our online [Two-Minute Activist](#) tool, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls!

- [Tell your Twitter followers about Two-Minute Activist](#)
- [Share Two-Minute Activist on Facebook](#)

Go to this page and sign up:

<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

