



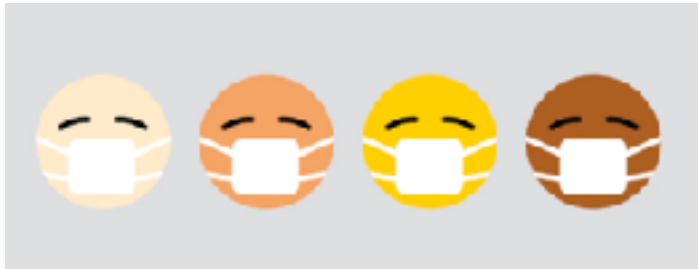
Sequoia News

Notes from the Presidents: Marilyn Rankin & Liz Kieske

AAUW Presidents Message May 2020

We have all been sheltered in place and looking forward to the day we can safely return to normal activity. Perhaps you have been able to enjoy organizing, cleaning, finding a new hobby, zooming with family and friends, or perhaps you have enjoyed the funny videos of people making face masks from their under garments and such. At any rate we hope you are well.

We look forward to seeing you in September.
Marilyn Rankin
Liz Kieske



May AAUW Program

The graphic below pretty much says it all... We hope you all are well and staying safe. If you have a need, we hope you will reach out to someone in this group. Whether it is to get groceries or just talk. We are here.



Coffee & California Concerns

As the County and State shelter-in-place orders are still in effect for the foreseeable future, this section is suspending our schedule until further notice. It is regrettable, as participants had prepared some great programming for this spring, and we thank all of you for your efforts. But higher priorities are in order, and we will resume our gatherings when we have all exited the Twilight Zone.

Contact: Maile Melkonian

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2020-2021

Spring Renewals



It's that time of year to renew your AAUW membership, and many of you have already renewed your membership. Coming up is another opportunity to pay by clicking on the email message from National. Its subject line is recognizable as it reads "membership@aauw.org". In the next day or two I will contact National to send out renewal notices. You may have already received it. If you don't get one, you have already paid, or you have changed emails. (Let me know if there are any changes to your email.)

REMEMBER: The good news is \$56 of your renewal fee is tax deductible!

QUESTIONS: contact Jean Moritz • moritzjl@hotmail.com

Special Interest Group

Tech Trek:

The Fresno State camp in June was cancelled. There was a vote state wide of Tech Trek coordinators and input from camp directors that the state board used to make their decision.

~ Jeanne Evans

From AAUW California:

Here are a few ideas from California branches on how they are keeping things going as we shelter in place:

- Hold your meetings online using some form of online conferencing like Zoom.
- Interest Groups:
 - Book groups: members read the assigned book and then discuss online in a virtual meeting.
 - Hiking groups: challenge members to get out anyway. Set up a shared spreadsheet on Google Sheets for everyone to record their miles and trails to hit a goal. Hikers can also share videos/photos of their solo hikes. A fun idea is to have an identification contest for the wildflowers seen along the trails.
 - Craft groups: host a virtual Show and Tell.
 - Lunch and dinner groups: gather virtually to share a meal. Show off your sandwiches, but don't talk with your mouth full. We can see you.
 - Garden Group members can post video tours of their blooming gardens. Maybe a name-that-plant contest?
- Stay on top of the AAUW mission: have members to recommend related TED talks for all to view, then discuss in an online meeting.
- Lighten things up: host a virtual meeting
- Get busy on your branch's Facebook page: consider setting up a separate private "social group" page just for keeping in touch.
- Mobilize members with a task to help the community, such as pairing up with a quilting club to sew masks.
- Send your members an AAUW-related scavenger hunt, crossword puzzle or BINGO game (easy to create with free online tools). Did someone say "contest?"

Great Decisions:

It's been six weeks since our last gathering and--with C.O.S. canceling classroom meetings through the summer, Tulare County banning gatherings, no end clearly in sight, and half our topics left un-discussed--we thought we would try arranging a cyber-session. So, here goes:

We'll pick up where we left off, at the "Northern Triangle."

1) First--BEFORE we "meet": Click on this link, from the Foreign Policy Association's streaming site, to view the 25-minute video background: Great Decisions examines the Western Hemisphere's migration crisis and the fractured societies at the heart of it: Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Stream now (http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001CNU8tZvsU1G1kwQomCBMc3burBFdBAiV9Uq-uXqc671IHovxfyaD9y-sXJaADtvLWzHUQfQ88Dz6LSYC6VCzQvuBP7WzPzf6vAzYzHwzlvUuKxVf7F0-AQgvg2ZiSbQWsvhc451OP-djhVJO_MPbgRnKglVt_Njp0xq7gkY0uU=&c=PfbeLUcLWHq9XiP9PZ7u_IKU-SjA6hBg1EAkvZxIYlok8rUXVkvVwg==&ch=1q9gJzHEsOp9RBQr0gLHIRTuIPhYD9IkckPMHP_L4frcILIX9fsA==)

2) Then--on May 5: We will meet via Zoom. Betsy has hosting capacity, so she has generously made arrangements for us. This is your invitation: Betsy Gaudette-Cross and Maile Melkonian are inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Great Decisions meeting.

Time: May 5, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time
Join Zoom Meeting - click on the link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83243732586>

Meeting ID: 832 4373 2586

(Everyone will be responsible for their own snacks.



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Depending on how this session goes, we may schedule the remaining three topics similarly. We do hope many of you will be able to join the session.

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

Meet Your AAUW 2020 Scholars:

This is not a normal year for our scholar recipients amid the COVID19 crisis. Luckily, your scholarship committee, Suzanne Babcock, Nan-Celia Horobetz, and I had the opportunity to review applications, get together to select our recipients, and even managed to interview our 7 finalists before hunkering down at home.

We are still dispersing all 7 scholarships this year since our commitment was made in the fall and was based on last year's fundraising. With the cancellation of our book sale activities for now and an uncertain future, our board will have to evaluate future scholarship prospects.

Of course, the COS scholarship night has been called off and our AAUW scholarship celebration in May is cancelled also. So I decided to introduce each recipient in this newsletter. Please read about these worthy scholars. They are inspiring and are the reason we work so hard each year to provide higher education to COS graduates. Thanks,
Susan Cunningham
Scholarship
Chairman

AAUW Sequoia/Visalia Chapter 2020 Scholarship Recipients	
	<p>Margi Shah</p> <p>To Margi, the word impossible means “I’m possible.” As a female untouchable in India, Margi uniquely sought out education. She became a U.S. exchange student, then was granted asylum to avoid being forced into an arranged marriage. She has dreams of attending Johns Hopkins and becoming a doctor specializing in stem cell research. Her commitment to her future is unwavering.</p>
	<p>Zoe Sweeney</p> <p>Zoe overcame the challenges of a broken home to complete not one, not two, but three Associate of Science degrees, in biology, chemistry, and physics. She aspires to become a doctor specializing in pediatric neurology. She hopes to one day serve as a mentor for future doctors in the Central Valley. Her work ethic is already well-established as she worked at three jobs during her successful years at COS.</p>
	<p>Marissa Maline</p> <p>Marissa does not let her battle with rheumatoid arthritis alter her dream of being a community powerhouse. In between long bus rides to Valley Children’s Hospital for treatments, she advocates for victims of human trafficking and homelessness in her rural community while keeping her 4.0 GPA at COS. She plans to complete her major in sociology and become a college teacher.</p>
	<p>Rihab Boumzough</p> <p>Rae’s mother, escaping an abusive marriage, immigrated with her two daughters from Morocco to the US. Then she became a role-model by becoming an RN. Rae has high ambitions to complete a double major in psychology and political science, plus continue school for graduate degrees. She wants to intern in Washington D.C. and still return to serve our community.</p>
	<p>Natalie Ezelle</p> <p>Natalie is a writer, dancer, actor, and ultimately a teacher. Her single mom, who valiantly saved her from a kidnapping attempt, inspired her to achieve her dreams of serving others through teaching English and theatre. Her education will continue at UCSB leading to her credential and eventually a chance to share her talents as a professor.</p>
	<p>Kenneth O’Leary</p> <p>Kenneth displayed his many talents as he participated in COS choir and drama and other clubs. He has worked to contribute to his family’s welfare while succeeding to become a President’s Scholar. He will attend a CA state university, obtaining a teaching credential with the possibility of pursuing the track of an educational leader in administration or counseling.</p>
	<p>Mabel Zamora</p> <p>Mabel has known her vocation all of her life. She has always been determined to become a teacher. From playing school to real-life tutoring, she has practiced imparting knowledge and a love of learning to others. She plans on earning a multiple-subject credential for elementary education, but is also considering becoming a high school counselor. Either way, Visalia is sure to benefit from her dedication to learning.</p>

FACE MASKS:

After receiving a request from Allison Carey, Kaweah Delta Hospital, a group of members went into action. We have contributed over 200, and counting, fabric face masks for the staff at the Home Health Care division of the hospital. I would personally like to thank: Jan Johnson, Dale Simmons, Suzanne Babcock, Sherri Bentley, Nancy Adalian, Pat Foster, Karen Simpson, and Jean Moritz for making the masks and Carol Seastrom for her fabric donation. Others have indicated a willingness to contribute. I appreciate all their time, materials, and commitment. The need is still on going. If others are interested feel to contact me.
~ Janice Crenshaw
jcren536@sbcglobal.net • Cell 559-303-2239



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/>

