



Sequoia News

September AAUW Program

DATE: September 17, 2020, Thursday, 3:00pm
LOCATION: Zoom link (invitation email to come soon)
PROGRAM: California Census 2020: Be Counted, California
PRESENTER: MAIL THAO California Complete Count Committee, Regional Program Manager

Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution mandates that a census be taken every “Term of Ten Years.” The pandemic has posed challenges to the process, but this huge undertaking is moving forward nevertheless. We’ll be hearing from the top official responsible for our area.

As the Central California Lead Regional Program Manager at the California Complete Count—Census 2020 Office, Thao directly supervises Regional Program Managers in the Central California counties—Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, and Inyo. Her work includes ensuring a collaborative and coordinated process for outreach and education efforts in the California 2020 Census. Thao will talk about:

- The goal of ensuring an accurate, equitable, inclusive Census count for the State of California;
- How this is being done;
- How the decennial Census affects education, social programs and government—including Congressional representation and the Electoral College—for the ensuing decade;
- And what impact the pandemic is having on the process.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, this meeting will be remote. Zoom meeting details:

Join: AAUW Kick-Off Meeting
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89017134088?pwd=bUZvZnB2S2FENHZoQTF4S0NKMEJyUT09>
ID: 890 1713 4088
Password: aauw

For those without computers, dial in by phone: California — (669) 900 6833. Come (virtually) to meet your new Board, and see what the Branch has planned for the coming year!

Notes from the Presidents:

Liz Kieske & Susan Cunningham

AAUW Presidents Message September 2020

We are ready to start a new year in our branch and a strange one it is. Hopefully, we will still continue to learn and contribute in this new environment.

Obviously, many things will not be taking place as they usually do, but we will go ahead as best we can. The program committee has done yeoman’s work in getting on-line programs lined up. Each month we will send you a link to the Zoom meeting, so if you have any issues with using Zoom, please contact Betsy Gaudette-Cross at 559.786.5340.

Of course, this way of meeting is definitely not the same as “in-person”, but we still can gain a lot from this format. And, we all look forward to seeing each other in person when the pandemic has passed.

We want to thank all of you who participated in the on-line voting for our 2021 slate of officers. This worked well and we appreciate your help.

With no book sale this fall, we are having to rethink our scholarship giving, but we intend to continue to do all we can. The book sale and scholarship giving will continue to be a primary focus of our group.

Please continue to stay safe and take care of each other.
Liz Kieske and Susan Cunningham

Come (virtually) to meet the new Board, and see what the branch has planned for the coming year.



Special Interest Group

KNIT WITS: The group met on June 30th for the 1st time since mid-March. We have been meeting off and on since then. If you are interesting in joining us, beginner or advanced or somewhere in-between, please call/text me. 559.287.2982

~Cathy Lovell



ARE WE TAKING BOOKS?

BOOK SORTERS: Yes, we are sorting books again. After months of letting dust collect, about 6 sorters are back at it in the warehouse in Exeter. Lifestyles is still closed, but Betsy and Sandy have graciously offered to collect books at their homes to take out to Exeter. If you have books to donate, know of anyone who has books, or if someone calls and wants to donate, please give them Betsy or Sandy's phone number.

Betsy - 559.786.5340 (call or text)

Sandy - 559.732.2450 (home)



IT'S OFFICIAL!

We have a new SLATE OF AAUW OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Liz Kieske Susan Cunningham
Presidents elect:	Maile Melkonian Betsy Gaudette-Cross
Program Vice Presidents	Susan Mathews Phyllis Matteson Sherri Bentley
Membership Vice President:	Suzanne Babcock
Membership Treasurer:	Jean Moritz
Treasurer:	Donna Nottingham
Financial Director:	Jill Rojas
Honored Member Gift Fund Vice President:	Nancy Holmes
Secretary:	Marsha Brooks-Smith
Communications Director/Newsletter Editor:	Betsy Gaudette-Cross

The AAUW California Public Policy Team is preparing virtual workshops (webinars) on important public policy issues. They include: GOTV (Get Out the Vote), Why Public Policy Matters, Title IX, How to Talk to Legislators.

The dates and times of these and other webinars can be found on the AAUW California [website](#).



**Don't Forget to Register to Vote
by October 19!**

**#AAUW_CA #GOTV2020
#RegisterToVote**

Dear Ladies of AAUW,

My name is Renella Smith. I am the "Sunshine Chair" for AAUW. This year has been a challenge for ALL of us and our families.



As we set off into our 2020-2021 year, I would like to take this opportunity to ask each of you to feel free to contact me by phone or email concerning one of our members. When we receive a card in the mail, it is such a lovely reminder that others are thinking about us.

Please think of contacting me if you know of someone who has had surgery, major or minor; someone who is ill or just struggling; and, of course, if you know of the passing of a member or one of her loved ones. Please do not be shy about reaching out to me. I would much rather receive several notifications about the same person than to find out some time later that a member should have had some "Sunshine" sent her way!

My contact information is as follows-

Email: gregrensmith@gmail.com

Home phone: (559) 627-3085

Cell phone: (559) 260-9646

Wishing all of you good health and much happiness!

Sincerely,

Renella Smith

Connie Fry Scholarship Awarded

I'm sure you all know about the COS scholarships which we awarded last spring to seven worthy candidates. But you might not know that an eighth scholarship was given to one of our recipients in the memory of Connie Fry.

Connie was an active, impassioned member of our AAUW chapter for years. She even served as our president. Sadly, she passed away a few years ago. Her husband, George Fry, a retired Presbyterian minister, wanted to bestow a scholarship to honor her advocacy of higher education.

Between George and our members, \$1100 was gifted to Mabel Zamora, a young COS scholar from Corcoran. She is fulfilling her lifetime dream of becoming an educator. She enjoyed great academic success at COS while still participating in volunteer community and church activities. She hopes to instill her love of learning to future generations. Hopefully this Connie Fry scholarship allowed her to have top-notch computer accessories to facilitate her virtual classes during the pandemic this fall.

Thank you to George Fry and all our members who contributed to making this young woman's educational dream come true.

Susan Cunningham



Program Highlights:

Due to our "locked down" status with COVID-19, the program committee has attempted to adapt with speakers that can present via Zoom. We hope that you will tune in on your computer for unusual, and informative sessions. In order to do that, you will need to download the Zoom app on your computer, pad, or mobile phone. The offerings include: the importance of the Census, a chat with our lieutenant governor (who happens to be female!), Kay Wood and Lali Moheno who will share their experiences last year at the UN Conference on Women, finding out about your ancestral roots (one member will be selected to have a profile created. Watch for a raffle in December to pick the name). Other possibilities include a look at the effects of water legislation with SGMA with Greg Collins, a presentation about the refinishing and opening of the Darling Hotel, and a possible play. We hope you join us on our first Zoom on Thursday, Sept. 17th at 3:00 P.M.

Phyllis Matteson, Susan Mathews, Sherri Bentley



GREAT DECISIONS -- SHAKESPEARE EDITION! Above is a screenshot from a Zoom meeting from last spring.

This foreign policy discussion group usually meets during the spring, but participant Marlin Roehl (a retired English Literature teacher) has prepared a thoughtful study twist for the fall. A big part of Shakespeare's enduring relevancy is the profound insights his plays bring to current events. We are piloting this idea with "Julius Caesar." It's a 4-part series, Tuesday evenings, starting Sept. 22, via Zoom. ***If you are interested, please contact Maile (maile@melkonian.org), so she can forward links to the play on-line.***

Topic: GD Shakespeare Edition

- Every week on Tue, 4 occurrence(s)
- Sep 22, 2020 07:00 PM
- Sep 29, 2020 07:00 PM
- Oct 6, 2020 07:00 PM
- Oct 13, 2020 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82067851548?pwd=UXpXUHZ6OXpqYnFqVHBOVmhaNjJjUT09>

Meeting ID: 820 6785 1548

Passcode: william

COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS

If you're interested in policy issues at the state and local levels, this is the section for you! Come join our 1st and 3rd Monday morning discussions. Our September/October focus will be the California State propositions (and any local measures that might be on the ballot). Thank you Terry Cornelius for organizing this!

As much as we enjoy our in-person gatherings, it looks like we'll be meeting via Zoom through the end of 2020, at least. Our first meeting is Monday, Sept. 21, at 10:00am. Here are the Zoom details:

Topic: Coffee & California Concern

Time: Sep 21, 2020 10:00 a.m. (PT)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85131972138?pwd=NmMweSszT25va1AwR3F3Mk9JeC9vQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 3197 2138

Passcode: CCC



Reminder From National AAUW: Virtual Meetings Only

COVID-19 is still all around us, and the safety of our members and staff remains AAUW's top priority. We strongly advise states and branches to avoid holding any in-person meetings or events at least through the end of the year, and in compliance with local and state guidance. We are proud of the affiliates holding creative and successful virtual meetings, elections and programs. Keep up the great work!

VOTER SERVICES: I am Sherri Bentley, co-director of Voter Services along with Cathy Druson. We have divided the responsibilities, but you can feel free to contact either of us with concerns or questions. I am the contact person for the following areas:

1. Candidate forum: Donna MeKeel coordinator
2. Voter Registration for the following Voter registration card project: Nancy White, coordinator
3. Voter registration in schools: Betsy Gaudette Cross, coordinator
4. Voter registration in the community: coordinator to be determined
5. Pros and Cons for the propositions: TBA

This is a very unusual election year, and we really need to work with the community to be informed about the issues, as well as the process of sending in your ballot, or finding the voting center that is available.

As we get information from the election office, we will share it with you. My contact information is 625-2448 (home)288-5429 (cell); email is: sherribentley49@gmail.com

HELP WANTED IMMEDIATELY: BECOME A VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR VOTER REGISTRATION IN THE COMMUNITY. VOLUNTEERS TO HELP DISTRIBUTE VOTER INFORMATION MATERIAL TO VARIOUS SITES.

