



# Sequoia News

## December AAUW Program *Christmas Tea*

### Notes from the Presidents:

Liz Kieske & Susan Cunningham

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, several Visalia-Sequoia AAUW members were inspired by Kay Woods and Lali Moheno, who presented their experiences from last year's United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at our general meeting by Zoom. Kay took us into the many sights of the conference and the gender struggles shared by women from around the world. Lali related her personal story that led her to advocate for farm-working women's issues. Both were interesting and informative.

With both the election and Thanksgiving behind us, we now look forward to our December holidays. Celebrations will remain different during this pandemic, adjusted to fit health and safety guidelines. Instead of a holiday tea, raffle, and silent auction, **our branch of AAUW will host a Holiday Un-tea, a fund drive for the educational programs we support: COS scholarships, Expanding Horizons, and Tech Trek.** With no book sales this year, we must rely on our members to help meet the increasing needs in our community.

So, keep an eye out for a letter from the Visalia-Sequoia AAUW branch. Inside you'll find a tea bag, a symbol of our usual holiday tradition. You'll also find an addressed, stamped envelope. While you're enjoying your cup of tea, please write out a check to save our educational programs. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Check future newsletters for updates on our progress toward meeting our goals to keep all our community support active, even during a pandemic. Pele said, "Success isn't determined by how many times you win, but how you play after you lose."

We have lost so much this year. Let's see how we play now. We can reach our goals!

Happy holidays and stay safe.



**But We Could Really Use Your Help...**

### SCHOLARSHIP NEWS:

Since we have not been able to hold the past two book sales, our finances are depleted. The Board decided to fund two scholarships this year for \$1000 each. The Scholarship Committee of Suzanne Babcock, Nan-Celia Horobetz, and Phyllis Matteson will base their decisions on the applicants' essays, GPA's, extracurricular activities, and letters of recommendation. Due to Covid, we will not conduct individual interviews, but we will be able to provide financial assistance to two worthy recipients. Thank you for your continued support of this worthy endeavor!

Any donation would be helpful and it is tax deductible. Write a check payable to **Visalia/Sequoia AAUW** and mail it to:  
**AAUW Visalia/Sequoia Branch**  
**PO Box 6**  
**Visalia, CA 93279**  
Thank you.



## Special Interest Group

### Unabridged Book Club:

Our small Zoom group discussed racial identity as presented in Brit Bennett's novel *The Vanishing Half*. For December, instead of a luncheon, we will meet remotely to individually share something we're reading this month. Missing our gatherings!



**COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS:** We will be meeting only once in December, due to the holidays, with a lovely feel-good report on "The Arts Scene in Visalia/Tulare County." Our own Pat Foster will present with an overview of the many things going on in this realm locally. Pat is on the Arts Visalia Board of Directors (a former president of the Board), and has been intimately involved in many aspects of the arts in our area for two decades. Please note, the revised Zoom details are:

Topic: Coffee & California Concerns

**Time: Dec 7, 2020 10:15 a.m. (PT)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89925790053?pwd=S1BjeHh5bjYrNTNBbmRnWXA5c0VIQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 2579 0053

Passcode: C&CC

Contact is Maile Melkonian

**GREAT DECISIONS:** This discussion group is a project of the Foreign Policy Association--a nationwide non-profit dedicated to fostering informed interest in international issues. It is sponsored in Visalia by A.A.U.W., in partnership with C.O.S. We meet eight times, every other Tuesday from January 26 to May 4, 7:00-9:00. Meetings for this series will be via Zoom, as C.O.S. has announced that they will not have on-campus classes or events through spring semester. This coming season's topics are:



- \* Global Supply Chains and National Security
- \* Persian Gulf Security Issues

continued

- \* Brexit and the European Union
- \* Struggles Over the Melting Arctic
- \* China's Role in Africa
- \* The Korean Peninsula
- \* Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic
- \* The End of Globalization?

We have a limited number of briefing books left at the discounted group package price of \$29 each (a 35% discount, factoring in shipping). If you are interested, please send a check (made out to "Carol Finney") to Carol at:

2106 S. Anthony Ct.  
Visalia, CA 93277

Of course, if you prefer, you may order them on-line directly from the Foreign Policy Association at [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org).

We expect to receive the books by early-January, and will announce how they will be distributed well before our first meeting at the end of January.

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

### GREAT DECISIONS -- SHAKESPEARE EDITION -

**OTHELLO:** We are halfway through our reading and discussion of "Othello," as a vehicle to approach the issues of systemic racism and political intrigue. We "meet" via Zoom, Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:00pm. If you are interested, please contact Maile ([maile@melkonian.org](mailto:maile@melkonian.org)), so she can forward your name to Marlin Roehl, the retired English Lit teacher facilitating this series, who will e-mail links to the play on-line.

Here are the Zoom details:  
Topic: GD Shakespeare Edition  
Every week on Tues., 2 more sessions

December 1, 2020, 7:00pm  
(Act IV)

December 8, 2020, 7:00pm (Act V & wrap-up)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87025557958?pwd=WG1sUURCTHQ2NU5kSkIzRXBJZ1dGdz09>

Meeting ID: 870 2555 7958  
Passcode: William







## DID YOU KNOW THIS?

As members of Visalia-Sequoia branch our yearly \$90 dues includes \$59 for national AAUW. "Paid Life Membership" becomes exempt from any further national dues. A member may pay 20 times the current national rate one time, and never again pay national dues. Currently that works out to 20 times \$59, which amounts to \$1,180, all of which is tax exempt. Angela Cooper is the contact to help you with Paid Life Membership at 202-785-7782.

## Yearbook / Directory

Everyone should have their Yearbooks by now. Please contact Maile if you have not received yours.

Thank-you to everyone who helped with the distribution!

— Maile Melkonian  
Editor

maile@melkonian.org  
802-3315

## We Need Your Help



**Where is this sign?**

**No one has seen this sign for a long time.**

**Someone has to know where it is, right?**

**Please let anyone on the board know if you have a clue where it is.**

## YEAH! WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER!

Please welcome our newest new member **Dr. Lucia Vasquez**. She has attended a number of our functions and meetings...but now it is official.  
132 E Sweet Avenue, Visalia, 93291  
559-381-1781  
[lucivasquez@gmail.com](mailto:lucivasquez@gmail.com)  
Brandman University, CA  
EDD Education  
2019

Welcome to AAUW!

## Are you the leader of a break-out group in AAUW?

We now have a Zoom account. Don't know how to schedule a zoom meeting? No problem. Here is a short little tutorial. Contact Allison Babcock for logon information. [ally112087@yahoo.com](mailto:ally112087@yahoo.com)

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362413-How-Do-I-Schedule-Meetings->

Don't know how to join a Zoom? Watch this.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->

**The Walkers** are still walking on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00AM. If interested, please call Dona Meinhardt (559) 732-8421. A Healthy and Happy Holiday to the all the members of the Visalia-Sequoia Chapter of AAUW!



## Expanding Your Horizons

AAUW is sponsoring 170 young ladies to attend this virtual STEM conference. Isn't that great? Click Here! <http://www.tcoe.org/eyh/>

Lori Olvera-Clarkson

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**December 12 or 19, 2020** (Saturday) 2:00–4:00pm

LOCATION: TBA

EVENT: **Holiday Tea** (event subject to pandemic conditions)

**January 21, 2021** (Thursday) 3:00–4:30pm

LOCATION: TBA

PROGRAM: **"The ABCs of SGMA"**

PRESENTER: Greg Collins, Visalia City Council, principal, Collins & Schoettler Planning Consultants

The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is affecting all of us. We'll get an update on the health of our precious aquifer, innovative plans in Tulare Co. to protect our resources, and what to expect as the law continues to roll out.

**February 18, 2021** (Thursday) TBA - time TBA

LOCATION: The Darling Hotel (this program is tentative)

PROGRAM: **"The County Courthouse Turns into the Darling of Visalia"**

POSSIBLE PRESENTERS: The Darling Hotel staff  
Terry Omman, historian, Tulare Co. Public Library

The public and private sectors, working together, have saved a historic art deco landmark from the wrecking ball. This exciting tour will highlight architecture, history and innovative public policy.

**March 18, 2021** (Thursday) 3:00–4:30pm

LOCATION: TBA

PROGRAM: **"A Look at the Death Penalty in California"**

PRESENTER: Mike Cross, attorney. Get a first-hand account of the complexities of our death-penalty system, from an attorney with a quarter century experience representing people facing capital punishment.

**May 2, 2021** (Sunday) TBA - arrive 1:15 p.m. for 2:00 curtain

LOCATION: The Ice House, 216 N. Willis St.

PROGRAM: **"Legally Blonde"**

PRESENTERS: The Visalia Players

A fabulously fun award-winning musical based on the movie, this musical follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Action-packed and exploding with memorable songs and dynamic dances, this musical is so much fun, it should be illegal! Tickets are \$17.

**May 15, 2021** (Saturday) 2:00–4:00pm

LOCATION: Congregation B'nai David, 1039 S. Chinowth St.

EVENT: **Scholarship Reception**

Thanks to generous donations from all of you, we are able to grant two scholarships to worthy C.O.S. students again this year. Meet the 2021 recipients, and hear their stories of motivation and perseverance overcoming obstacles in pursuit of their goals.

