



# Sequoia News

## January AAUW Program January 21, 2021

### Notes from the Presidents: Liz Kieske & Susan Cunningham

Happy New Year! Let us hope that 2021 will be a far happier year than 2020. What with the vaccines now here, we can be hopeful.

AAUW will continue in a virtual mode. Our members have been wonderful in adapting to the technology we have available to us and many thanks to the “tech savvy” members for getting those of us who are dinosaurs through these events!

We have had some very interesting speakers and the program committee has more scheduled. We can look forward to this.

Many, many thanks to all of you who participated in the Holiday Tea by Mail. It was very successful and you have definitely made an impact on our scholarship fund.

Here is to a wonderful 2021 and the hope that we can all be together in the fall.

Liz Kieske and Susan Cunningham

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Time:** 3:00 to 4:30

**Program:** "The ABCs of SGMA"

**Presenter:** Greg Collins, Visalia City Council, principal Collins and Schoettler planning consultants

The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater 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 resources, and what to expect as the law continues to roll out. (Greg has been a part of the history of Visalia and Tulare County for years. He has a plethora of knowledge concerning politics and issues! Don't miss this dynamic speaker and a chance at Q and A after the meeting!)

## **AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY TEAM ANNOUNCES FIRST VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY!**

On March 24, 2021, AAUW California in conjunction with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategy Group, will be conducting a virtual Lobby Day with our legislators in Sacramento. This is a terrific opportunity for branch members to get involved in the public policy process by helping the state Public Policy (PP) Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021-22. It's also a great way to meet your local legislators and let them know how you, through AAUW, are helping their constituents in your communities.

We are asking branch PP chairs (or presidents, if your branch doesn't have a PP chair) to help us recruit participants. Please have interested branch members register [HERE](#) by January 8, 2021.

Finally, all participants will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on March 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Click [HERE](#) to register for "How to Talk to Your Legislators."

### **Important Dates:**

- January 8, 2021 – Last day to register to participate in Lobby Day
- March 22, 2021 – Lobby Day training webinar
- March 24, 2021 – Lobby Day

## Special Interest Group

### Coffee & California Concerns

Thanks go out to Pat Foster for her illuminating overview of the arts scene in Tulare Co., and especially, Visalia. At the end of such a stressful year, it was a nice way to ease into the holidays.

We're back to our twice-a-month schedule this month, with two catalysts for thought as we contemplate the coming year:

#### Mon., January 4, 10:15am

"Building a Movement for Equity and Justice in the Valley"

Dan O'Connell, Executive Director, Central Valley Partnership

Seeing a need for more equitable opportunity and better living conditions for all socio-economic and ethnic groups in our area, O'Connell was the catalyst for the creation of the C.V.P. He is especially deeply involved in the human side of farming in the Valley, and has built an impressive coalition of community partners with the goal of leveling the playing field for all.



#### Mon., January 18, 10:15am

"What Are AAUW's State-Level Policy Priorities?"

Dr. Melissa Maceyko, AAUW State Public Policy Committee - As affiliates of the State and National AAUW organizations, we want to be aware of policies and actions being addressed. Come hear what our



organization is doing to advance education and women's equity. The variety and depth of State-level involvement in important issues may surprise.

CONTINUE ON NEXT COLUMN

The Zoom details are the same for both sessions:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89925790053?pwd=S1BjeHh5bjYrNTNBbmRnWXA5c0VlQT09>

**Meeting ID: 899 2579 0053**

**Passcode: C&CC**

Contact is Maile Melkonian

### 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

### Volunteer Visalia

As you might imagine, Volunteer Visalia has been sidelined because of the Covid virus along with most other aspects of our daily lives. We hope to be up and running soon as the vaccine becomes more widely distributed. We are also looking for opportunities to volunteer so if you are aware of any community needs, please let us know.

Jan Johnson

### Book Sale/Sorting

While we are still uncertain when we will be able to have a book sale, we are continuing to sort books every Monday at the Exeter warehouse. Masks and gloves are a must but our book sorters are faithful and Sandy Parmelly continues to lead our efforts. Help is always appreciated if you're looking for a Monday morning activity. We are not actively promoting book donations as the warehouse is pretty full but if you know of a donation, give Sandy or me a call.

Jan Johnson

## Expanding Your Horizons

On Saturday, November 7, 2020 AAUW sponsored 170 elementary students to attend Expanding Your Horizons via Zoom. Thank you for your continued support of girls in STEM. These students were working hard at creating light using batteries, nails, and lemons.

Students were provided a materials list so they could actively participate in each lesson. These two pictures show two different students making a battery using a lemon. The materials needed for this lesson consisted of four lemons, four copper pennies, (minted pre- 1980), four zinc galvanized nails, five alligator clips, and two red LEDs.

Lori Olvera-Clarkson



## Scholarship Update

I hope all of you have enjoyed your cup of Christmas tea! Please remember to donate to our **Scholarship Fund** using the envelope that was provided with your tea bag. With the pandemic cancelling our past two book sales, we need to rely on your generosity to help the two deserving COS students. Thank you for your continued support. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all.

Suzanne Babcock

## Tax Deduction

Of the \$90 we pay for dues, AAUW national membership dues are \$59, state dues are \$20, and local dues are \$11. The state and local dues are not tax deductible. However, \$56 of the AAUW national dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. The remaining \$3 is not tax deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 502(c)(4) Capitol Hill Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities.



## Tech Trek Volunteers

Tech Trek will be virtual this year. Our Tech Trek coordinator, Jeanne Evans, is in the process of contacting the schools to recruit the attendees.

The state organization is asking the branches to help with volunteers on the local level. Some of these positions require tech ability, others, not so much. There will be a small stipend paid and training will be provided.

There will be 3 one-week camps. Volunteers could work one week or all three. If you or a young woman you know would be interested in one of these positions, please contact Jeanne Evans for more information. It could be a very interesting experience.

## GREAT DECISIONS

**We're starting our annual foreign policy discussion by Zoom on Jan. 26th from 7-9:00pm.**

Great Decisions is a project of the Foreign Policy Association, and is sponsored in Visalia by A.A.U.W. We meet eight times, every other Tuesday, 7:00-9:00. Meetings for this entire 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:

Jan. 26 -- Global Supply Chains and National Security  
Feb. 9 -- Persian Gulf Security Issues  
Feb. 23 -- Brexit and the European Union  
Mar. 9 -- Struggles Over the Melting Arctic  
Mar. 23 -- China's Role in Africa  
Apr. 6 -- The Korean Peninsula  
Apr. 24 -- Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic  
May 4 -- The End of Globalization?

As this newsletter goes to press, we have four 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  
Otherwise, 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 early this month. As the Tulare Co. Library is closed to patrons for the time being, Carol will have them for pick-up at her house. Details will be e-mailed to those who have made purchases.

Zoom details are:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610121173?pwd=M1F1RC9GZfVka3lwR0d4akZGT2Fxdz09>

Meeting ID: 826 1012 1173  
Passcode: GD2021

If joining by phone: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
Meeting ID: 826 1012 1173  
Passcode: 466885  
Contacts are: Maile Melkonian, Carol Finney and Betsy Gaudette-Cross.

## 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](mailto:maile@melkonian.org)  
802-3315

## 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->

## 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.**



## Un-Tea Update by Susan Cunningham

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! What a remarkable response to our "UnTea" fundraising event! As of December 11<sup>th</sup>, we have received over 50 checks TOTALING OVER \$4,315 from our Visalia-Sequoia AAUW members for our COS scholarships. Thanks to your generous support, deserving students will have a little boost as they transfer to a four-year university. If you don't see your name yet, either you will in next month's update or IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SEND IN YOUR CHECK! I have included a list of donors so far, plus some of the enthusiastic comments that accompanied the checks.

"Thank you for your efforts!" from Marylin Silveira

"This is a great idea! How about every month?" by Carol Finney

"Thanks for my morning tea time!!" from Suzanne Babcock

"What a clever idea!" from Elaine Smith

"The 'Tea Party' is a great idea! Hope it reaps benefits," from Maile Melkonian

Elaine Smith's friend liked the idea so much, she donated as a non-member!

### THANK YOU DONORS!

Doris Bratsch  
Wannie Britten

Jane Grassel  
Jane Hornung  
Jean Moritz

Jill Rojas  
Suzanne Babcock

Carol Bixler  
Mimi Boyd

Terry Cornelius  
Janice Crenshaw

Shani Crookshanks  
Karen Davis

Joanne Dudley  
Nan-Celia Horobetz

Karen Feezell  
Carol Finney

Denise Fletcher  
Mary Foster  
Susan Franciskovich

Keren Friedman  
Ellen Gorelick  
Nancy Holmes

Julia Honer  
MaryAnn Lawrence  
Elaine Smith (for Shirley  
Martin)

Judy Lawsen  
Cathy Lovell

Barbara Maraist  
Tania Martell

Susan Mathews  
Phyllis Matteson  
Dona Meinhardt

Maile Melkonian  
Marie Miller  
Betsy Gaudette-Cross  
Terry Oldershaw

Rita Olson  
Lori Olvera-Clarkson

Kathleen Peek  
Carol Seastrom

Nancy Scott  
Ruth Sibbett

Marylin Silveira  
Karen Simpson

Anne Skinner  
Elaine Smith  
Jonnie Stone  
Susan Zachary-Kreps  
Donna Nottingham

Donna Nottingham (in  
memory of Phyllis Ogden)

Nancy Adalian  
Lourdes Alexander  
Sherri Bentley

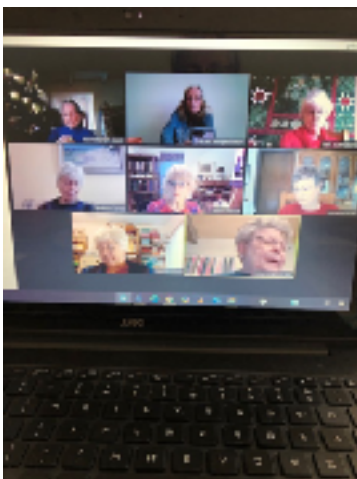
Judith Berg  
Marsha Brooks-Smith

Bonnie Chan  
Catherine Drusen

Carol Glass  
Cherilyn Jackson  
Rosemary Jackson

Jan Johnson  
Liz Kieske

Diane Post  
Lisa Silva  
Wendy Storey  
Linda Thomson



### Unabridged Book Club

How we missed our traditional holiday luncheon! We met by Zoom and shared our recent best reads. Deacon King Kong (James McBride) and The Splendid and the Vile (Erik Larson) were mentioned more than once! Next year, back to La Piazza!

Zoom screenshot on the left.

Do you want to join a  
break-out group, but  
don't know how?

Look in your directory  
for the name of the  
person in charge and  
give them a call. All are  
welcome.

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**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.

