



# Sequoia News

## November AAUW Program

### Notes from the Presidents:

#### Liz Kieske & Susan Cunningham

We sure didn't need Halloween to conjure up some horror this year. Anxiety and fear go hand-in-hand with 2020. We're struggling with election decisions and divisions, climate change, wildfires, racial injustice, and of course the sacrifices of the pandemic. Amelia Earhart said, "Use your fear...it can take you to the place where you store your courage." I find my courage in my connections to family and friends.

We're hoping that you're keeping up with the important people in your life, and with your AAUW activities, even remotely. It helps both to know more about current concerns and to be distracted from them. I enjoy seeing those friendly faces at our Zoom general meetings, Book Club, Great Decisions, and Coffee & CA Concerns. In fact, our Visalia/Sequoia AAUW chapter has recently purchased our own Zoom pro account which can be used for our general meetings or accessed during break-out sessions.

On Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup>, we were lucky to welcome Amy Shuklian to our joint AAUW and League of Women Voters Zoom meeting. As a Tulare County Supervisor and future chairperson, she has a broad understanding of our county's issues. Her discussion focused on COVID-19, but also discussed challenges related to water and homelessness. She was informative and personable, encouraging members to ask questions. *She invited us to attend Tulare County Board meetings on Tuesdays at 9 AM.*

Remember to check out our state AAUW website for ongoing information. CA Connections is a state level monthly eblast, and a quick read of what you might want to know about AAUW activity. State webinars are offered; register for live participation or watch the recorded sessions anytime.

It is with sadness that we are unable to host a Holiday Tea in 2020. The loss of the book sale and the tea raffle have affected our ability to maintain our level of support to our community endeavors. Our scholarship program will be drastically different this year.

**DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

**LOCATION: Zoom link (invitation email to come)**

**PROGRAM: "How 5,000 Women Changed My Mind" and "Sexual Abuse of Women Farmworkers In The Field, and Domestic Violence of Farmworkers"**

**Time: 3:00-5:00 P.M**

**Presenter: P.Kay Woods and Lali Moheno**

Did you know that two women from Tulare County attended the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York last year? Kay Woods will be discussing how she became passionate about the effect of global warming on women around the world with their communities, and family livelihoods, as well as the efforts by women to create change. She also became aware of how the lack of adequate education for women stymies the impact women potentially could make in science, sociology, arts, politics, and government decisions both around the world and locally.

Lali Moheno, local activist in Tulare county for farmworker issues, also attended the conference. Her presentation will concern the farm-working women who endure sexual abuse in the fields, as well as domestic violence. Both ladies' topics are timely and pertinent to our community, and we hope you will join in to be informed and inspired.

Hopefully you can join in. These Zoom meeting are going well, and if you are still are unable to join in, let someone know. We would be happy to help you.

Continued:

Tech Trek and Expanding Horizons will be virtual only. We sure look forward to a vaccine that ensures a return to putting people together! Dig into your fears and find your courage!

Liz Kieske and Susan Cunningham



## 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. As usual, we'll meet eight times, from late January to early May, approximately every other Tuesday evening, 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
- \* 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?

Also as usual, we are ordering a discounted group package of briefing books that we can make available for \$29 each (a 35% discount, factoring in shipping), but supplies are limited, and must be ordered by November 23 (we usually run out early). 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.



## Book Sorting - HELP!

We have been gifted multitudinous boxes of books at the Exeter Warehouse. They are stacked down the middle and the back wall of the second warehouse. The woman who donated them read tons of books, saving every single one until she died at age 92. That made quite a collection which her sons have now donated to us, bringing the books to us in 4 trailer loads! Many books are throw-away, but some contain a few sale-able ones. It's a treasure hunt to go through so many boxes.

**We need your help!** Please come to Exeter on a Monday at 8:30am, even just for an hour, between now and the end of the year to help with this. We wear masks and try to maintain distance, too. It helps that we are more or less out of doors, too.

The frequent sorters are Sandy, Marsha, Betsy, Nan-Celia, Cora and sometimes Lisa, Valerie.

**Drop by some Monday morning.** There's bound to be some good books to be found in these many boxes. All the current sorters have been Covid-responsible.

QUESTIONS: Call Sandy Parmelly - 559.936.1891

**We need boxes tops for sorting the books. Look for them when you go to Costco, or other grocery stores.**



These are the type we need. Not too big but not too small and with high sides like these to the left!

See the difference of these two boxes? The one on the left is taller and stronger. The one on the right we can't use. The sides are too short and not strong enough.



## GREAT DECISIONS -- SHAKESPEARE EDITION CONTINUES!



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 piloted this idea with "Julius Caesar." It turned out to be hugely popular with participants. To quote some: "It was mind-stretching!" "I enjoyed it VERY much!" "I really felt this was a good use of my time." "I found myself muttering to myself around the house in iambic pentameter."

So the group decided to follow up, this time with "Othello" as a vehicle to approach the issue of systemic racism. It's a 4-part series, Tuesday evenings, starting Nov. 10, via Zoom. If you are interested, please contact Maile ([maile@melkonian.org](mailto:maile@melkonian.org)), so she can forward your name to Marlin Roehl, who will e-mail links to the play on-line.

Here are the Zoom details:  
Topic: Great Decisions - Shakespeare Edition  
Time: Nov 10, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Nov 10, 2020 07:00 PM  
Nov 17, 2020 07:00 PM

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

Meeting ID: 870 2555 7958  
Passcode: William

One tap mobile  
+16699009128,,87025557958#,,,,,0#,,4296119# US  
(San Jose)

**Questions? Contact Maile Melkonian**  
**[maile@melkonian.org](mailto:maile@melkonian.org)**

## *Something Different - Symphony goes virtual with free mini concerts*

With the possibility of having big concerts in large concert halls squelched for the unknowable future, the Sequoia Symphony Orchestra has gone virtual with a series of free short "Musical Uplink" mini concerts that debuted Oct. 23 with an introduction filmed, appropriately, in Sequoia National Park by music director Bruce Kiesling. The second will be released Oct. 30.

This summer, small groups of musicians filmed the first of 8- to 10-minute concerts that will be on YouTube and the Sequoia Symphony website throughout the season. And the best part: anyone can watch them, no tickets required.

The Musical Uplink concerts will be released— one or two each month through April—at [www.sequoiasyphonyorchestra.com](http://www.sequoiasyphonyorchestra.com). You can also sign up on the website to get email updates.

Listen to the first Musical Uplink at [Musical Uplink | Sequoia Symphony](#)

## WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER!

Judith G. Berg  
2340 N. Maselli St., Visalia 93291  
559-786-0352

[judeeberg@aol.com](mailto:judeeberg@aol.com)

University of Minnesota  
BSN, MS Nursing and Public Health  
1971, 1978

Interests: travel, reading, volunteering, gardening  
Occupation RN

Judith has been in Visalia 7 years, and is a past president of a different chapter. She was also involved in National AAUW.

***Welcome to our chapter. We are glad to have you!***

MEMBERS, BE SURE TO ADD HER TO YOUR DIRECTORY WHEN YOU GET IT.



## OUR LAST GENERAL MEETING - OCTOBER 20, 2020

As we continue celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment, **Amy Shuklian**—the highest ranking female elected official in our county—spoke to a joint meeting of AAUW and the League of Women Voters of Tulare County on October 20, 2020, on the topic, “**State of the County.**”

She started by stating, “The most pressing issues facing Tulare County right now are:

1. COVID
2. COVID
3. COVID



Shuklian quipped that her favorite color used to be purple, but with our county stubbornly stuck in the State’s COVID Purple Zone, it no longer is. Tulare County has a 7-day positivity rate average of 10%. This really exposes the health equity divide. In order to get into the Red Zone (where in-door restaurant dining can resume at 25% capacity, and gyms can reopen at 10% capacity, etc.), new cases per 100,000 needs to be less than 7 and we are at 8.9. Currently the population of Tulare County is 480,000. She reported that Porterville “has really stepped up to the plate,” and has had the county’s most effective COVID response.

Sheriff Mike Boudreaux, after getting started by announcing in July that he will not enforce the mask mandate or other state COVID laws, has tried to correct that by ensuring that his department is always seen wearing masks. The Sheriff’s department has 700 sworn deputies. Shuklian points out that the Sheriff is an elected official—not an employee of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors—and therefore not accountable to the Board.

Turning to the thorny issue of homelessness, Shuklian talked about recent County efforts. Healthy Harvest is a program implemented by the state to rent hotel rooms to separate farmworkers that may get sick, especially from COVID. The State of California has provided our County \$5.2 million for Project Homekey.

A similar sounding Project Roomkey is a program to lease hotel rooms to house the homeless and isolate our vulnerable populations. Tulare County has housed over 200 homeless. With the funds, the County was able to purchase Tagus Ranch. Kaweah Management has given a 10-year master lease. It is an effort to provide Permanent Supportive Housing. Tulare County is looking at different programs as solutions for the homeless in Visalia, such as 40 Prado in San Luis Obispo, Utah’s Housing First, and Salt and Light from Austin.

Shuklian says. “Right now our County’s financial situation is very

\*continue in next column

good.” Tulare County passed a \$1.5 Billion dollar Budget. They have earmarked \$2 million from reserves for any deficits from the economic fallout of the pandemic, leaving \$30 million in reserves. The money is primarily from property tax, which has benefitted from more development. They have also instituted a hiring freeze and eliminated vacant positions.

Tulare County has received \$48 million dollars in COVID relief, through the CARES Act. With that money, they initiated a small business grant program for \$5,000. It is being implemented through the Workforce Investment Board. So for they have issued 1,100 grants. Also with the money, they started an eviction protection program that provides rental, mortgage and utility assistance.

— Donna E Kindsch

## COFFEE & CA CONCERNS:

Last month CCC spent 3 weeks in a row going over the CA State Propositions. Thank-you to all those that researched and participated. Our 3-part discussion of the propositions was robust, illuminating and very helpful. Thanks go out to Sherri for organizing us and to Betsy for hosting the Zoom.

A handy on-line resource for a lot of election info (If you haven’t voted, including lists of the top donors for and against each proposition!) is [VotersEdge.org](https://www.votersedge.org), a public education and transparency project of the League of Women Voters.

**Note that our first November meeting will be the SECOND Monday**, since the first Monday in November happens to be the day before official Election Day. It's also an actual in-person voting day this year, and some of our participants are poll workers. The Nov. 9 scheduling will give us a chance to digest this most unprecedented election cycle. We'll make a decision at that meeting about what to discuss on the 16th.

**Nov. 9: "Election Post-Mort" -- all participants**  
**Nov. 16: TBD**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5255182341?pwd=S3BIUXpBb3dOZXA4OFIYcGhqQUxmdz09>

Meeting ID: 525 518 2341  
Passcode: C&CC

**\*Save this link.**

## We Need Your Help

### Coming soon ! Your Yearbook / Directory

The Yearbooks have gone to press, and should be available soon. With in-person meetings not our current reality, the Books will be distributed through Sections, as much as possible.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this all possible!

— Maile Melkonian  
Editor

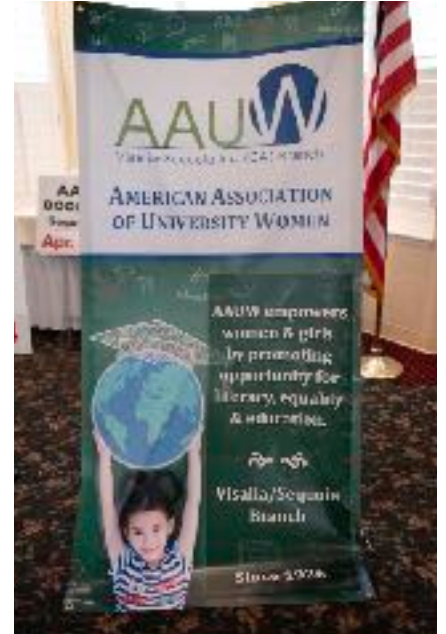
Where is this sign?

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.



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