



Sequoia News

February AAUW Program February 18, 2021

Notes from the Presidents: Liz Kieske & Susan Cunningham

It's vaccine season! I'm sure that many of you have already received your first dose. If not, be ready to put Covid-19 behind you by registering for local clinics on the Tulare County website. To borrow from Hamilton, "It's time to take a shot!" For me, "I am not throwing away my shot!" I take it with immense gratitude.

A big thank you to Greg Collins who taught us all we need to know about SGMA, but were afraid to ask. We learned the background of the act and what changes our region needs to implement to protect our precious aquifers. Urban and rural areas will become familiar with land retirement, irrigation innovation, groundwater recharge, and city conservation.

We have such amazing members in our Visalia-Sequoia branch of AAUW! We surpassed our goal in our UnTEA fundraiser, thanks to your open hearts and checkbooks! We met our commitment to this year's C.O.S. scholarship awards and even put some away for the next round. We should be close to normal soon, even if we can only rely on one book sale. See the details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Check out the www.aauw-ca.org website for topical webinars, available any time. Subjects include Title IX, mentoring women in careers, racial literacy, resilience after loss, and the legacy of RBG. All food for thought.

While you're thinking, take a bite out of this topic: In the interest of advancing equity, The National AAUW supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. The state and national boards want your opinion, but act quickly: go to the AAUW election page by February 5th. (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/>)

SPEAKER: Adrienne Hillman
PROGRAM: Salt of the Earth- Light the Way to Help Homeless
DATE & TIME: February 18 3:00 pm
This will be a ZOOM Meeting

The one thing everyone agrees with is the homelessness in Tulare County. It's not going away. With the pandemic and cold weather the problem has become worse.



Adrienne Hillman is the founder of Salt and Light. Her vision and hope is to create a community that lifts the chronically homeless off the streets. Adrienne's plan is a community for homelessness based on the successful model created in Austin, Texas.



We, as members of this community, need to see how we can become involved and be a part of the of the solution.

**continued President's message*

This has been proposed before, and the election on this topic is from April 7th-May 17th. I can understand the arguments on both sides, and I'm sure you have many points that I hadn't even thought of. Change is in the wind; we'll see what this election brings.



Happy Valentines Day,
Liz Kieske and Susan Cunningham,
Co-presidents

Special Interest Group

Book Sorting

With the vaccine finally here and being administered, our traditional money maker book sale is becoming more viable. We have been accepting donations at our Exeter sorting site and continue to do so. Let's think positively about getting back into our donation mindset! If you or anyone you know has books to donate they can come to our Exeter sorting area on Monday mornings between 8:30 and 10:15 or call me at 732 2450. Since our Lifestyles donation box is closed, I usually have space available to transfer books on Mondays. If Exeter is a problem, I probably can accept the books at my house. Looking forward to seeing you all at the next book sale!

~ Sandy Parmelly

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!



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.

COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS

We had two fabulous and thought-provoking meetings in January, starting with Central Valley Partnership Director Dan O'Connell speaking on "Building a Movement for Equity and Justice in the Valley" (arranged by Lucia Vazquez); and then State A.A.U.W. Public Policy Co-Chair Sue Miller on "What Are AAUW's State-Level Public Policy Priorities?" (arranged by our own P.P. Chair Terry Cornelius--see adjacent article for details). For those of us looking for worthy New Year's resolutions, they gave much inspiration.

This is our upcoming schedule:

Mon., February 1, 10:15am

"How to Digest the Political Events of the Past Month?"
Speaker: Stephen Tootle, C.O.S. History Professor
It is no surprise that we were all dismayed with recent events, culminating in January 6. As faculty advisor to the College Republicans, and having served as vice-chair of the Tulare County Republican Party, Tootle is a thoughtful, informed observer, and will provide a Republican analysis of what led up to that incident, and where things go from here.

Mon., February 15, 10:15am

TBA; your communications gal will keep participants up-to-date via e-mail.

Also, here's a heads-up for our March 1 program, since it involves reading a book:

Mon., March 1, 10:15am

Book review of "The State of Water" by Obi Kaufmann (HeyDay, 2019, 144 pp.) Pat Foster will facilitate. March 1 also happens to be the day that the City of Visalia moves to Stage 2 water restrictions. (This means, among other limits, irrigating our landscape no more than twice a week all spring/summer/fall.) So the topic could not be more timely. Despite the rain of the past week or so, our aquifer is in dire shape, a situation Councilman Greg Collins emphasized in his informative presentation at our January general meeting. To help wrap our minds around all this looming reality, we'll be reading a recent edifying publication (and a relatively quick read). Pat says it features beautiful artwork throughout--a little sugar with our medicine?

The Zoom details are the same for all sessions:

Topic: Coffee & California Concerns

Time: 10:15 a.m. (PT)

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

Meeting ID: 899 2579 0053

Passcode: C&CC

*Contact is Maile Melkonian

GREAT DECISIONS - You can still join

This foreign policy discussion group is meeting remotely this season. Our Jan. 26 kick-off session on "Global Supply Chains" was quite relevant to the pandemic situation we find ourselves in.

We meet every other Tuesday, 7:00-9:00pm. The topics for this month are:

Feb. 9 -- Persian Gulf Security Issues
Feb. 23 -- Brexit and the European Union

Zoom details are:

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610121173?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610121173?pwd=M1F1RC9GZVFka3lwR0d4akZGT2Fxdz09)
[pwd=M1F1RC9GZVFka3lwR0d4akZGT2Fxdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610121173?pwd=M1F1RC9GZVFka3lwR0d4akZGT2Fxdz09)

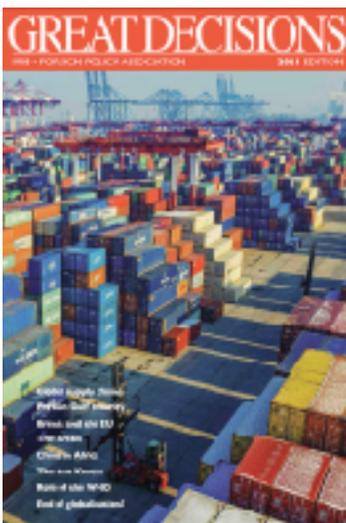
Meeting ID: 826 1012 1173
Passcode: GD2021

If joining by phone:
One tap mobile
+16699009128,,82610121173#,,,,*466885# US (San Jose)

or
Dial by your location
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 826 1012 1173
Passcode: 466885

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



Editorial Comment:

I love Great Decisions. It is one of my favorite things in AAUW. If you haven't ever joined in or you don't know what it is, give me a call. I'll tell you about it and why I love it so much. P.S. There are many men that participate in the group so it is not just for women. Call. I'll tell you about it. 558.634.0156
Betsy

REDISTRICTING—Help Wanted

Every time a census is completed, the state of California is involved in redrawing lines of various electoral districts to equalize their numbers. Such districts include Congress, State Board of Equalization, State Senate and Assembly, county boards of supervisors, city councils, school boards, community college boards, as well as special district boards (such as water boards).

This process is crucial to ensuring maximum opportunities to equalize by population, racial and economic representation. The League is interested in making sure elected officials responsible for redrawing be transparent and responsive to voters in their communities allowing them greater opportunities to express their views, be heard and elect candidates of their choice. Your board is encouraged to help in this process. We would like to have a committee (with a chairperson) be established soon to participate in research into which districts need redistricting, and then advocate for equal representation. Once the districts of concern to our unit are determined, we would establish who is in charge of the process, ask about their schedule, and how the public can participate. We can assist those groups to have a greater voice and watch to see that the process is in compliance with best redrawing practices.

Your board is asking for your help. Will you participate in being part of a team to work for our community? Contact Dale Simmons, Terry Cornelius, or Sherri Bentley if you can help.

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.

UnTEA Update - By Susan Cunningham

We've had even more success with our fundraising UnTEA. Along with the vast array of donors from the January newsletter, we have received additional donations this past month. Our grand total is a whopping \$5,165. Thanks to you all for keeping our C.O.S. scholarships alive! Recent donors include:

Maureen Bianco	Carol Dias
Valerie Ehrlich	Louise Ford
Marti Fry	Betsy Gaudette-Cross
Carole Greening	Mary Hill
Christina Kaviana-Johnson	Mary Ann Lawrence
Cynthia McBee	Margaret Moholt
Diane Mortensen	Renella Smith
Linda Tucker	Marilyn Watson
Sandra Hansen	

CLIMATE CHANGE FOLLOW UP

On January 5th, LWVC sent this update in League of Women Voters and Climate Change. In light of our January presentation on this topic, here are ways members can learn more about what is happening now.

The League of Women Voters declared a climate emergency and made climate change a key priority at our [2020 Annual Convention](#). To advance League action on this urgent issue, we have formed a nationwide collaboration effort – the [LWV U.S. Climate Team](#).

We are a large and growing group of League members from all but seven states, working together to fight climate change. We currently have [ten nationwide teams](#) on subjects of joint interest. Together we inform each other, share information and strategies, and analyze federal legislation and policy for maximum impact. **All League members are welcome.**

Learn More You can learn about our effort at [LWV U.S. Climate Team](#). Learn more about the national teams at [LWV National Climate Teams](#).

Join Us To be added to our email list [fill out the form here](#). To join the Google Group click on [this link](#) and then click on "Join Group".

Join an Existing Climate Team If you have an interest, please email the Team Chair directly. See list below ranked oldest team to newest.

Carbon Pricing – Diz Swift Chair, dismoreswift@att.net

Food, Soils, and Agriculture – Mary O’Kicki Chair, okickim@gmail.com

Wildfire – Dan Zalles Chair, danroyzal@gmail.com

Climate Justice – April Oquenda Chair, apriloquenda@gmail.com

Renewable Energy – Marty Gibbins Chair, mgibbins@lwvwa.org

Climate Action Plans – Kathy Berlin Chair, kathymberlin@yahoo.com

Transportation – Launa Zimmaro Chair, launa@zimmaro.com

Water – Leona Whichard Chair, lpwhichard@bellsouth.net

Health and Climate – Adrienne Wald Chair, awald@mercy.edu

Oceans – Carolyn Caywood, cacaywood@cox.net

Co-Chairs of the LWV U.S. Climate Team · Diz Swift, Eleanor Revelle

AAUW California Public Policy and Branch Special Interest Group

by Terry Cornelius

Coffee and California Concerns is our Branch Special Interest Group that focuses on state and local public policy issues. On January 18th, Sue Miller, AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair, joined our meeting to update the group on AAUW California's current priorities.

Here are some highlights to help us connect with the work in which AAUW California is engaged. Branch participation is welcomed and encouraged!

Before reviewing those priorities, Sue reminded us of two important time sensitive activities.

From the Public Policy Chairs:

Legislation: The new California legislative session began on January 11th. The AAUW California Public Policy team is already at work with MVM Strategies, our new legislative advocate. We are planning a **"virtual" Lobby Day on March 24th** to assure that our voice will be heard by legislative leaders before bills we support come up in committee hearings. We're planning a **webinar for March 22nd**, to prep for the Lobby Day. You are welcome to sign up and participate!

NOTE: The deadline was January 8th, but Sue said registration is still open.

- March 22nd Lobby Day Webinar - Click [HERE](#) to register.
- March 24th Lobby Day – registration deadline is January 8th - Click [HERE](#) to register.

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

<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->

New Member Campaign

Here is one way to bring in new members to AAUW and our local branch. It's called "Give a Grad a Gift". We, as AAUW members, may gift one year of AAUW national membership to a recent college graduate at no cost to anyone. The national membership is free, but local and state dues would still need to be paid at \$11 and \$20 each.

~Jean Moritz



Quail Park offer to AAUW members...

The director of the new Quail Park facility, Kathleen Rumilard, has contacted us with an offer. Since they were not able to have a grand opening of their new facility, they wanted to find an alternate way to let people know they are open. Soooooo....they are now offering to deliver dinner for two to any members of our organization who express an interest. Dinners are delivered on Tuesday or Thursdays.

They will call you, set up delivery time, and drop off the food. You will only need to heat it up...no cooking involved.

There are no strings attached to this offer. It is just their way of advertising in Visalia as well as saying "thank you" for the work we do in our community.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A RECIPIENT OF THESE FREE MEALS, just email me, Suzanne Babcock, your name and phone number. I will then pass along your information to Kathleen and she or her staff will contact you. Any questions, please email me at sbabcock123@yahoo.com

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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.

REMEMBER, any activity listed in the newsletter is open to all members. You haven’t ever gone to Coffee and California Concerns? No problem. It is open to everyone. Interested in checking out Great Decisions? Great. Join the Zoom on the dates listed. Check out what AAUW has to offer.

BTW, if you are reading this, first I (Betsy) want to thank you for taking the time to read all the end.

