



Sequoia News

March AAUW Program March 18, 2021

Notes from the Presidents: Liz Kieske & Susan Cunningham

Will March roar in like a lion and leave like a lamb? This year the roar may be muted, but let us hope the lamb-like qualities abound at the end of the month. A bit of calmness will be good for all.

Our February meeting was very well received. Adrienne was a delightful speaker and had a wonderful message for us. Thanks to all who attended. We are all looking forward to hearing Betsy Gaudette-Cross' husband, Michael Cross, talk about the challenges and inequities of the criminal justice system. Be sure and tune in on March 18th.



Covid vaccinations seem to be a very large talking point with everyone we have been in contact with. There are many frustrations with getting appointments and some severe reactions to the

shots, but hopefully all who want them will get them soon and we can begin to think about getting together in person! If you still have not been vaccinated, check out this web page: [Vaccines in Tulare County](#)

Our organization can use all of you to help in one way or another. Please consider volunteering for an office or position if you can. We look forward to seeing and working with all of you soon!

Liz Kieske and Susan Cunningham

SPEAKER: Michael Cross
PROGRAM: Racial Justice
DATE & TIME: March 18, 3:00 pm
This will be a ZOOM Meeting

Michael has been practicing law for about 38 years here in Tulare County practicing criminal defense.

His description of his talk is written below:

Since race and the criminal justice system are important current topics, I will discuss three pieces of legislation from the 2020 session in California that combat racial bias.

The first is AB2512 relating to death penalty ineligibility for those with an intellectual disability. This act eliminates the practice of adding points to a black persons IQ scores. I will explain this in terms of a case that I am currently litigating.

The second is The Racial Justice Act (AB 2542) that provides remedies for racial bias in criminal cases. I will also explain this in terms of a case of mine.

The third is AB 3070 that changed the law concerning jury trials and peremptory challenges to people of color, making it easier to stop the practice of eliminating all people of color from a jury.



**WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US ON MARCH
18TH AT 3:00PM FOR THIS VERY
IMPORTANT TOPIC.**

Special Interest Group

Scholarship committee update...

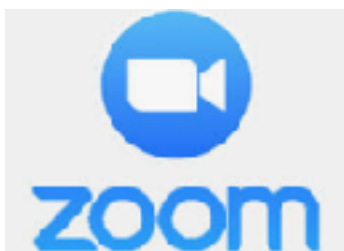
The three members of the scholarship committee (Suzanne Babcock, Nan-Celia Horobetz, and Phyllis Matteson) are busy reading 30+ essays and trying to decide which two COS students will be awarded one of our two \$1000 scholarships. We will meet in early March to compare our ideas and choose the winners. Due to COVID, there will be no personal interviews which we will miss, but two students will be thankful to those of you who contributed to the scholarship fund.

AAUW Zoom Meetings Update by Susan Cunningham

We have been valiantly braving our general meetings via Zoom. It is not always an accessible pathway for all our members. One member asked if the Zoom meetings were recorded. What a good idea!

I had not recorded any meetings yet, so I gave it a try on February 18th when Adrienne Hillman presented an inspiring talk about Salt & Light, a Visalia project to provide for the chronically homeless. I recorded this meeting and had it saved to my computer. I am hoping that I can attach it to an email upon request so that members who could not attend the meeting could still watch it. I am no techno-wizard, so be gentle with me if it doesn't work. But I'm willing to try. So just email me at gicasusan@gmail.com to request a copy by email. Be sure to fast forward, because the recording includes the initial waiting period too.

Next time, I'll start the recording manually when we are actually ready to start the meeting. We are learning so much, but sure will be happy when we can meet in person!



COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS

Mon., March 1, 10:15am

Book review of "The State of Water" by Obi Kaufmann (HeyDay Press, 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 using, as a point of departure, "The State of Water," a recent edifying publication.

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=S1BjeHh5bjYrNTNBbmRnWXA5c0VIQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 2579 0053

Passcode: C&CC

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Passcode: C&CC

*Contact is Maile Melkonian

AAUW Election: Prep Your Vote by Learning the Issues

Starting April 7, AAUW members will be asked to vote to elect members to the national board of directors and on amendments to our Public Policy Priorities and bylaws, including a proposal to eliminate AAUW's longstanding membership degree requirement. Get up to speed on the issues by reviewing the [election page on the AAUW website](#).

GREAT DECISIONS - You can still join

This foreign policy discussion group is meeting remotely this season but we are still having fun while learning about what is going on in our world. We meet every other Tuesday, 7:00-9:00pm. The topics for this month are:

March 9 -- Struggles over the Melting Arctic
March 23 -- China's Role in Africa

Zoom details are:

CLICK ON THE LINK to get to the Zoom room.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610121173?pwd=M1F1RC9GZVka3lwR0d4akZGT2Fxdz09>

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)

Meeting ID: 826
1012 1173
Passcode: 466885

The book can be purchased via Kindle on Amazon

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



Great Decisions 2021
by Foreign Policy Association
★★★★★ ~ 10
Kindle
\$22.99
Available instantly
Other format: Paperback

National Dues



This might be a good time to become a Paid Life Member by paying national dues in the amount 20 times the national rate one time, and becoming exempt from further national dues. The one-time payment is \$1,230. Four of our members are already Paid Life Members. Why is this a good time to do so? The fact that national dues will be increasing over the next three years might be an incentive. The national dues will be increasing by \$3 this coming year. More information about that will be coming in April's newsletter.

Have You Taken Advantage of This Yet? 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: **RACIAL JUSTICE**

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.

Did you miss last month's meeting or just want more information? Here are two links that will be very helpful to illustrate what kind of village setting Salt and Light is modeled after. Click below to watch and share!

[Community First! A New Movement Building Hope](#)



Adrienne Hillman
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