



Sequoia News

MAY AAUW Program May 15, 2021

Notes from the Presidents:

Liz Kieske & Susan Cunningham

We are approaching the end of an unusual year for our AAUW membership. It is a year none of us will ever forget. It has been trying in many ways, but we have managed to have some very good experiences also. Zoom meetings may not be the most desirable way of getting together, but think of how things would have been without this technology! We are looking forward to returning to “normal”, but will remember this past year as one in which we overcame a lot and managed to do some awesome things. Thanks to all of you for making our group stronger than ever.

Our first in person meeting was delightful. Thanks to Patti for hosting it. We look forward to continued in-person meetings. We also thank the League of Women Voters for including us in their informative meeting on the electoral college.

Thanks to all of you who have stepped up to volunteer for a position for the coming year. It is much appreciated and we know you will find it rewarding as well. **As you know, we still are in need of a president-elect, so we implore you again to think about volunteering for this position.** Believe us, it is not a daunting position and is actually very enjoyable. Think about it!

We hope all of you who wanted a vaccination have been able to get one. Let us hope that we can get past this pandemic soon.

Liz Kieske and Susan Cunningham

PRESENTER: Suzanne Babcock

PROGRAM: Scholarship Reception

DATE & TIME: May 15th starting at 2 PM

LOCATION: Via Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82418484153?
pwd=bW9BdVY0MVRnNitVdlFIV0FaaUZ2dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82418484153?pwd=bW9BdVY0MVRnNitVdlFIV0FaaUZ2dz09)

Meeting ID: 824 1848 4153

Passcode: vsAAUW

After such a strange year of virtual meetings, we are closing out our year with yet again, another Zoom meeting. Thanks to the generosity of 85 Visalia-Sequoia AAUW members, all is not lost in our quest to support education through scholarships to deserving students graduating from College of Sequoias and transferring to a four-year university.

Please join us to honor the recipients of our scholarships! First, Suzanne Babcock will introduce each scholar, giving us a glimpse at what makes these students stand out. Hopefully, the students themselves will participate in the meeting to share their plans for the future.

The AAUW scholarship program is such a worthwhile and rewarding experience.

Join us!

P.S. An email reminder will be sent out with the link, but please put this on the calendar so you block out this time. See you on May 15th.

Special Interest Group

COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS

Susan Cunningham's odyssey into the realm of solar power options provided much useful information to share with the group. Thanks, Susan, for initiating this great discussion.

We've had a wonderfully educational year, once again, thanks to the collective effort! Here are our last two meetings:

Mon., May 3, 10:15am

Topic: Brainstorming for next year!

All of us

We're going to miss having that potluck at Betsy's, but we can still toss around ideas for the coming year. This is a perfect chance to make suggestions about that subject you've always wanted to understand better. If you're curious about it, no doubt others are, too. And if you have a solid idea for September, all the better!

Mon., May 17, 10:15am

Topic: "The ABCs of Water-Wise Landscaping"

Speaker: Dan Veyna, Sierra Landscape Designs

This fully licensed landscape architect is one of the handful of Visalians specializing in water-wise designs and drought-tolerant best practices. We all know water is a dwindling resource in the Valley. Since over 60% of our water usage goes into landscapes, this is the best place to conserve. Dan will help us understand how to do that...beautifully.

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

Contact is Maile Melkonian

GREAT DECISIONS

This year's eight-part foreign policy series is wrapping up this month. Once again, topics have been making headlines as we've been addressing them, enhancing their relevancy. Our final topic is a doozy:

Tuesday, May 4 -- "The End of Globalization?"

7:00-9:00pm

Zoom details are:

Join Zoom Meeting

<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

This is the last one. We hope you will join us.

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

The Knit Wits

The Knit Wits will resume gathering at Panera's on **May 11 at 10 a.m.** If you have an interest in any needle craft, please join us.

We meet every Tuesday from 10 to noon.

If you have any questions, call Cathy Lovell at 734-3850.



Scholarship news...

The scholarship committee is pleased to let you know that the AAUW scholarships for two deserving COS students have been awarded. The two students will each be receiving \$1000 to help with college costs and tuition as they transfer to a four year university to continue their education. The two students chosen were Cassandra Padilla and Nicole Rush. The committee reviewed their academic records, their extra curricular activities, their volunteerism, as well as a personal essay.

These scholarship recipients have been invited to join us on Zoom for our May 15th meeting. It is our hope that you will be able to see them, meet, and find out what their plans are for the future. Please join us on May 15th at 2:00 via Zoom to hear their stories.

BOARD TO BOARD

PUBLIC POLICY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The AAUWCA Public Policy Committee has completed its review of the bills for this legislative season.

In 2021, AAUW California will focus on childcare, which meets the goals of all of our three pillars: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-priorities/>

Without affordable childcare for families, women are often the ones to leave their jobs or forgo education to care for their children. This has been the case for tens of thousands of women during the Covid pandemic, jeopardizing their financial security and ability to get higher paying jobs.

We are supporting a package of legislation that will improve access to quality early childhood education for low-income children and especially children of color, make family fees affordable, and improve the quality of childcare for children aged 0 – 3.

- AB 92 — Waives family fees thru 10/22, then restructures rates for family fees (we are co-sponsors of this bill)
- AB 22 — Transitional Kindergarten for four-year olds
- SB 70 — Mandatory Kindergarten
- SB 246 — Restructuring childcare rate reimbursement to improve the quality of childcare
- AB 1361 — Expulsion of children from childcare

These bills help women achieve economic security, improve the quality of childcare and early learning in preparation for education, and helps eliminate bias in how children of color are treated in childcare.

IT'S DUES SEASON

Thanks to the many members who have sent in checks or paid dues online early. If this trend continues, we should all have sent in our dues by the June 30th deadline. Why is this timing important? It means the directory can be updated and printed in early July.

For those yet to pay dues, a new notice will be sent to your email the first week of May. You can pay online, or write your dues check for \$95, payable to **AAUW**. Please remember, we no longer use the longer name of "Visalia-Sequoia Branch", or "CA0112 Branch, Inc." when writing checks.

Mail it to me soon at:

Jean Moritz, 2412 S. Encina St. Visalia CA 93277.

For tax purposes, \$59 of your dues is tax deductible.



Tea Party Update

Thanks to all eighty five members who generously donated a total of \$5345 to the Scholarship fund this year. Among the donors not mentioned before were Judy Mayfield and Karen Simpson. Karen's donation was noted as a gift in memory of Kathy Oldershaw.



AAUW SUNSHINE

If you know of anyone that needs some "sunshine" please contact Renella Smith at (559) 260-9646 or gregrensmith@gmail.com.



Remember to let her know if you hear of any of our members who need a lift, have been ill, had surgery or suffered a loss. Thank you.



Pictures of Patti Phillip's garden tour Saturday, April 24

Patti and Niel have created a hidden treasure nestled in between their orange groves. The knowledge and work Patti and Niel put into their garden was over the top. It was absolutely beautiful.



The Program Vice Presidents are already thinking about programs for the 21-22 year. We always get wonderful suggestions from the our AAUW members. **Please send any ideas you might have to us.**

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Once Again - Early Birds

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