



Sequoia News

OCTOBER AAUW Program OCTOBER 14, 2021

Notes from the Presidents: Susan Cunningham & Maile Melkonian

"There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book." --Frank Serafini, literacy professor and author

Book sale month! Putting affordable books into the hands of our community members, young and old, is one great purpose of our book sale. Our volunteers saw first-hand the magical glee of a child who discovered the perfect book to capture their heart after combing through hundreds of choices. And the gleam in a collector's eye who, after spending hours at the tables and excavating the boxes below, found the unique volume to complete their set of a favorite author. **Thank you** to the over **50** members and family and friends who worked tirelessly at our book sale. As I write this, I don't know our earnings, but we must count our first sale during a pandemic as a success. A team effort to be proud of!

About 30 members and guests were moved by the dynamic and impassioned speech given by Luz Gonzalez at our September meeting. Her devotion to her education and her family were heartwarming. Perseverance paid off. Great kick off to our new year. Looking forward to focusing on Visalia sights with George Pilling in October. Let Sherri Bentley know if you can attend this free meeting!

Thanks also for adopting our 2021-22 budget. We'll be back in business as long as we can keep our book sales functioning. Break-out section leaders described their group activities and recruited new participants.

If you've been hesitant to join us in person due the latest Covid surge, we understand and hope the impending booster shots boost not only our immunity, but our confidence as well. **SEE YOU AT THE SALE!**
Susan Cunningham & Maile Melkonian, Co-presidents

Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021

Time: 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Location: Quail Park at Shannon Ranch,
3440 W. Flagstaff Ave.

Program: Discussion of the book "A Walk Around Visalia"

Presenter: George Pilling, author and retired county librarian, district librarian for Visalia Unified School District.

Cost: none

Ever think about some of those beautiful old Victorian houses, bungalows, and other historic buildings throughout Visalia? Who might have built them, where are they located, and their story? Come listen to George Pilling describe what inspired his book which chronicles several short walks you might take around Visalia, and perhaps some sampling or descriptions of his favorite places.

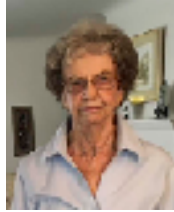
Contact for reservations: call Sherri Bentley
559-288-5429

George Pilling - former Librarian for the Tulare County Library.



Mary Lou Flattley

One of our long-time members, Mary Lou Flattley, died this September 30th. She is remembered as our 2011-2012 President, a 50-year member, and a friend to many. Mary Lou was involved in many activities such as Traveling Troopers and Bridge. She also served as Hospitality Chairman. Quilting was a skill she excelled in, and she was a founding member of a small quilt group called "Sew 'n' Sews" which still meets together. She will be missed.



MARGO TRESSLER SCHOLARSHIP

Friends of Margo are starting a scholarship fund in her memory. This scholarship will be awarded to a COS student next spring and will be named, The Margo Tressler Memorial Scholarship.



Those interested in remembering her for her friendship and work in AAUW can do so by writing a check made payable to "AAUW" and mailed to our P.O. Box 6, Visalia CA 93279, or mail it to Jean Moritz, 2412 S. Encina St., Visalia, CA 93277.



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.

AAUW WEIGHS IN AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

AAUW is actively lobbying for major legislation in Congress. Two bills sponsored by California representatives are of special interest.

Women's health: Reproductive rights are at serious risk in our country now. The Women's Health Protection Act, (H.R.3755), sponsored by Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27), has passed the House and is on the Senate legislative calendar. This urgent bill would protect abortion access.

Title IX: The [Patsy Mink and Louise Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act \(GEEA\)](#) (H.R.4097), sponsored by Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-6), includes provisions for more resources, training, and technical assistance to support full implementation of Title IX. Also, AAUW staff are in close contact with Miguel Cardona, the new Secretary of Education, to reverse egregious Title IX policy changes made by the previous Secretary Betsy DeVos.

Support AAUW's work at the national level. Urge your branch members to sign up for the Two-Minute Activist by clicking [here](#) or by texting "AAUW" to 21333 to get Action Alerts via text.

The 21st Annual Expanding Your Horizons Conference will be held November 6, 2021 at the Tulare County Office of Education, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd. Event starts at 8:30 and ends at 12:30. AAUW is once again sponsoring girls from Tulare County to attend. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Lori Olvera-Clarkson 559-300-3653.

Don't forget to support the BOOK SALE going on RIGHT NOW! We have sooooo many books because of not have a sale because of Covid.

TELL YOU FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Post is on Facebook or Instagram.

Send emails to your local friends.

We need to make up revenue from not having a sale for over a year and a half!

Special Interest Group

Tech Trek

What does the future of Tech Trek for 2022 look like? According to Dianne Owens, AAUW California President this is a difficult question to answer at this point. "Camp Directors are consulting with our campus contacts to determine if and where residential camps will be allowed on campus in 2022. We'll be reviewing this information and discussing our 2022 options at the Tech Trek annual meeting on October 10th. Because of the uncertainty, we will need to be flexible in our planning process again this year."

There has been a change in the Tech Trek leadership. The state Program Director and Financial Liaison have resigned as of the end of September. However two new people have stepped up to fill the positions.

Thanks! Jeanne Evans

COFFEE & CALIFORNIA CONCERNS

County consultant Lucia Vazquez provided our group with a fabulous overview and background on the decennial redistricting process currently in progress at all levels of government. She outlined the importance of redistricting to all of us, and how it can affect representation, directly and indirectly. Using the Tulare Co. process as an example, we learned how each of us can offer input to the authorities about our "Communities of Interest," to help them better draw the lines. As we enjoyed a lovely garden venue (thanks, Karen Feezell!), we had quite a lively, informative discussion about how different the Visalia City Council process is, and other intriguing aspects of the topic.

From this month, until further notice, C&CC is going on hiatus. The section is still looking for a chair to take over communications duties, essential to keep the group going. When Carol Seastrom and Donna Denham established C&CC a decade ago, they must have had an inkling how informative and stimulating the local and state-level policy discussion might be. And, indeed, the presentations and conversations have been truly illuminating. If anyone is interested in chairing this section, please contact Maile Melkonian (559-802-3315, maile@melkonian.org).

Book sale signs...

Many thanks to all of you who helped our book sale by putting out a book sale sign, or maybe even two. Please remember that the signs **do need to be collected** on the last day of the sale. If you're a few days late that's not a problem but we do need to collect all signs and have them returned.

So if you did collect book sale signs please return them to the person you got them from so they can cross your name off their list. **Once again thanks for helping us publicize our sale.**

Suzanne Babcock • (559) 303-9394

What would we have done without Zoom last year? This is a Great Decisions meeting only the "Shakespeare Edition."



A new-ish spin-off of Great Decisions—to fill the fall GD scheduling void—is the Shakespeare Edition. This gives closet thespians a chance to read important plays, and discuss them in depth. Inevitably, the lessons gleaned are very applicable to our current social and political issues. Retired English teacher Marlin Roehl gently guides the group through iambic pentameters, historic contexts, the role of women, ancient spirituality and morality, and other fascinating enrichments of the text. Here, participants (including President Susan Cunningham's son, Kevin, Zooming in from Ohio!) take different character roles as they read the on-line script of "Oedipus Rex," on September 14. This activity wrapped up "production" on Sept. 21.

HOW DOES OUR CHAPTER MAKE THEIR SCHOLARSHIP MONEY?

DID YOU KNOW that AAUW usually gives out **\$15,000 worth of scholars to 7 COS recipients???**
Who do we do it?

The backbone of Visalia-Sequoia AAUW mission depends on our successful biannual book sales. It takes a large team working year-round to bring this about. Sorting books takes place almost every Monday, from 8:30-10:00ish at the Exeter Warehouse on G Street, just south of Pine St.

Sorting is fun! You get to see how the gigantic book sale happens. You get first dibs on a book to read! No commitment required; come when you can. We'll be back sorting again soon. If you want to receive emails about sorting, contact Jean Moritz at moritzjl@hotmail.com.

Or call Sandy Parmelly at 936-1891. Or just show up! To be safe from Covid and dust, sorters are wearing masks as they work. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Hope to see you there!



**COME JOIN
THE FUN!**

**THIS IS WHERE
THE BOOKS
ARE SORTED.**

**IT'S OUTDOORS, MASKS
ARE WORN, SO YOU ARE
SAFE.**



**DID YOU KNOW
Your Board Members?**

Who should you call with questions about
our branch of AAUW?

Here are your new Visalia-Sequoia AAUW officers for the 2021-2022 year:

Co-Presidents	Susan Cunningham (559) 901-5545 Maile Melkonian (559) 802-3315
President Elect	Lisa Silva (559) 786-3280 TBD
Program Vice Presidents	Susan Mathews (559) 731-8074 Phyllis Matteson (559) 300-5022 Sherri Bentley (559) 288-5429
Membership VP	Suzanne Babcock (559) 303-9394
Membership Treasurer	Jean Moritz (559) 627-5520
Treasurer	Donna Nottingham (559) 804-4590
Financial Director	Susan Franciskovich (559) 734-1030
Honored Member Fund	VP Nancy Holmes (559) 901-7536
Secretary	Marsha Brooks-Smith (559) 741-1165
Communications Director/Newsletter Editor	Betsy Gaudette-Cross (559) 786-5340

**MORE APPOINTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ARE IN YOUR
DIRECTORY!**

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

Sherri Bentley

625-2448 288-5429 (cell)
sherribentley49@gmail.com

Susan Mathews

739-1449 731-8074 (cell)
smathews18@gmail.com

Phyllis Matteson

732-1988 300-5022 (cell)
rapmat@aol.com

**OH NO!!! THE BEST BREAKOUT GROUP IS
 "GOING AWAY!"**

WE NEED YOU!

Coffee & CA Concerns - This group needs for a volunteer to step forward. Maile is beginning her duties as co-president, and must step down from chairing C&CC. This is many member's favorite Branch section! (editorial comment from Betsy... This is why I joined AAUW!)

Topics and speakers are arranged by C&CC participants, so the chair's function is largely communication. Of course, Maile will brief any volunteer (or volunteers--co-chairs?) who would like to do this. Please step up and help with this fantastic break-out group of AAUW!

