



Sequoia News

MOVEMBER AAUW Program November 14, 2021

Notes from the Presidents: Susan Cunningham & Maile Melkonian

“Books are the carriers of civilization. . . . They are companions, teachers, magicians, bankers of the treasures of the mind. Books are humanity in print.”

—Barbara W. Tuchman, history author

We are entering an annual season of gratitude denoted collectively in the U.S. ever since Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863. (The idea was that of an intrepid woman of letters, editor Sarah Josepha Hale, who also authored “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”) Twenty-one months into a pandemic, gratitude may be a tricky exercise, but we do, indeed, have things to be thankful for.

- For one thing, after a two-year hiatus, we were able to have a Book Sale. We took a leap of faith, and Coordinators Sandy Parmelley and Jan Johnson made this crucial fund-raiser happen—with the cooperation of a whole bunch of volunteers! The resulting \$15,000 gets our signature scholarship program back on sound footing. Additionally, the Sale keeps books in circulation—and out of landfills.
- In the past few months, we have lost three long-time members: Margo Tressler, Mary Lou Flattley and Ruth Sibbett. As devastating as these losses have been, we treasure having known them, and acknowledge the vital contributions each of them made to our Branch.
- We appreciate the work of our Programming VPs, Susan Mathews, Phyllis Matteson and Sherri Bentley, who have organized a calendar packed with variety and interest. “A Walk around Visalia” author George Pilling gave us tantalizing insights into local history, architecture and

Date: November 14th

Time: 2:00pm, but check in around 1:30pm

Location: Ice House Theatre, 410 Race Ave on the corner of Race and Santa Fe Street

Program: Hot Flashes play

Cost: \$17.00

Contact for reservations: smathews18@gmail.com
(559)731-8074 (leave voicemail or text message)

Make check out to Visalia Players:

mail to : Susan Mathews

3933 West Woodside Court

Visalia, CA 93291:

If you want to bring friends or family members you are welcome to include them. Once the seats are gone they are gone. If more people want to see the show than we have reserved tickets I can probably reserve more if it is **enough in advance**. There will be a table outside the theatre to pick up your ticket.

Hot Flashes is an original musical that follows the lives of 5 women, from 40 to 70, and begins in the 60's. The show features such songs as I Will Not Age, In the Nude and Never to Old to Rock. Lyrics are hysterical. Come for a great afternoon of non-stop laughter!!

PS....Men enjoy the show too!

SAVE THE DATE!

December 11, 2021 (Saturday) 2:00–4:00pm

LOCATION: Home of Susan Mathews, 3933 W. Woodside Ct.

EVENT: Holiday Tea

PRESENTERS: Past Presidents will be pouring for us definitely cause for celebration: we hope to be celebrating the holidays in person! Come enjoy the season's festive conviviality.

President’s Message Continued

- sociology. This month, we’ll be supporting theater arts by attending “Hot Flashes” at the Ice House. Our own Susan Mathews and Karen Simpson are in the cast, and may have some good news to report about the fate of the beloved venue. Let Susan know if you plan to attend, so she can reserve your tickets.
- Expanding Your Horizons will be in-person this year, as well, although it has been postponed to Dec. 11. Though this is the same day as our Holiday Tea, it’s at a different time. See EYH Chair Lori Olvera-Clarkson’s report below.
- And most of our special interest sections are managing gatherings, one way or another, thanks to the management skills of their chairs.

The two of us are grateful, too, for the participation of all of you! Best wishes.

— Susan Cunningham & Maile Melkonian, Co-presidents

Special Interest Group

Tech Trek

Tech Trek Update
Good news! An in-person Tech Trek has been established at Fresno State for the summer of 2022! According to Karen Manelis, the new Program Director for AAUW California Tech Trek "...at this time we are planning for only in-person camps in summer 2022, probably with additional restrictions (adhering to CDC, FDA, and state and campus guidelines/requirements/mandate". Many aspects of it are still in the planning stages and decisions will be made hopefully by the beginning of December.

Jeanne Evans

GREAT DECISIONS



It’s time to think about the upcoming Great Decisions series, starting in late January. 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. We meet eight or nine times, every other Tuesday from late January to early May (exact dates TBD), 7:00-9:00pm. Depending upon C.O.S.’s Covid protocols, we may be meeting in person or via Zoom. This coming season's topics are:

- * Changing Demographics
- * Outer Space
- * Climate Change
- * Russia and the U.S.
- * Myanmar and ASEAN
- * Quad Alliance
- * Drug Policy in Latin America
- * Industrial Policy
- * Biden's Agenda

Briefing Books provide the background readings that are the point-of-departure for our discussions, and are required to participate. We offer a group discount, if you order through Maile, of \$30 each (a 30% discount, factoring in shipping). If you are interested, **please send a check BY NOVEMBER 15th** (made out to “Maile Melkonian”) to:

**Maile Melkonian
2815 S. West St.
Visalia, CA 93277**

Of course, if you prefer, you may order them on-line directly from the Foreign Policy Association at 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 and Pat Foster

AAUW Fall Book Sale

After our two year hiatus, our book sale was a great success. As you might imagine, we had a lot of books. We sold what seemed like 5 million books and still had about 5 million left! (Well, not really) The mall welcomed us with open arms as did many of our annual customers. We made approximately \$13,000, net.

We were helped this year by the COS Cross Country and Track teams. A group of about 8 guys and 3 girls worked very hard loading the books in an efficient manner. Redwood's FBLA club, as always, worked very hard to unload our books at the mall. We had a group of about 20 students from Redwood and then AAUW members directed the laying out of the books. We were fortunate to have a larger than usual group of students this time as sports practices were cancelled due to the horrible air quality. These groups are a delight to be around and we are thankful for all their help.

We are anticipating a Spring Sale in 2022, dates TBA. As always, many thanks to Sandy Parmelly and all the book sorters who are faithful in their commitment to our sale. Also thanks to all of you who worked the sale. Getting Tulare County reading and students on to college is important and our book sale is a large part of those goals. Thanks to all!



October's general meeting: George Pilling, author and retired county librarian and district librarian for Visalia Unified School District had a discussion of the book "A Walk Around Visalia".



WANTED...Book sale signs
Thank you to all who helped advertise our fall book sale. We made over \$13,000 to help with scholarships!

BUT...we need book sale signs returned, and we are currently missing about 30. We need to have time to turn around and get them ready for the sale in the spring. If you have a book sale sign in your car, garage, or front yard...PLEASE return it to me ASAP.

My address is 3224 S. Ernest just behind the Home Depot on Caldwell.

Each sign, sticker and bracket cost our organization about \$15, so we need to reuse them for every sale. So if you got a sign, gave a sign to a friend, or see a sign...please return as soon as possible.

Ruth Sibbett a member of our branch for many years passed away on October 13. During those years she chaired many committees, and in the last 15 years she served terms as the branch treasurer and also as editor of the membership book. Her community involvement centered on the Creative Center.

Her many friends were inspired by her enduring spirit, and her patience. She was an excellent bridge player and a devoted mother and grandmother.

She will be missed.



How does AAUW impact Federal legislation concerning women's issues?

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.

The Holiday Tea is coming up in December!

If you, your business, or your special interest group has a prize to donate, contact Nancy Holmes (559) 901-7536 (cell) with a prize description and to arrange a pick-up the week before the tea. Let's keep this tradition alive with holiday spirit





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.

The 21st Annual Expanding Your Horizons Conference HAS BEEN **RESCHEDULED** for **Saturday, December 11, 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.

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

WE NEED YOU!

Coffee & CA Concerns - This group needs a volunteer to step forward. Maile has begun her duties as co-president, and must step down from chairing C&CC. This is many members 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!**

