



Sequoia News

Notes from the Presidents: Susan Cunningham & Maile Melkonian

Defining the holiday season, Agnes M. Pahro said, "It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future."

We have spent months mourning our losses, bracing for our current circumstances, and garnering hope for future endeavors. You know that we have lost three long-time members: Margo Tressler, Mary Lou Flattley, and Ruth Sibbett. Their loved ones and our members have generously donated to our branch as tributes to their passion for AAUW. We were especially blessed by the \$10,000 given by Mary Lou Flattley's family. Along with our proceeds from the successful fall book sale, we are back in good shape for our scholarship season. The scholarship committee proposed, and the board approved, the following COS scholarships: From the Mary Lou Flattley large donation we'll have 3 recipients: one \$5000, one \$3000, and one \$2000. From our book sale profit and other donations, we'll have 4 more recipients: one \$3000 and three \$2000. Seven deserving students! And the other donations honoring these women will be added to these numbers in May! So if you want to donate in their honor, send your check to AAUW at the PO Box or to Donna Nottingham, Treasurer. Be sure to note which member you wish to honor on the check.

Thanks to Susan Mathews for arranging our November meeting at the Ice House production of Hot Flashes. Fantastic fun! It felt so good to just relax and laugh out loud with an enthusiastic audience. Wonderful to see Susan and Karen Simpson as stars!

This month we have another lovely social event, our holiday tea. Thanks to Susan Mathews for hosting, to Marsha Brooks-Smith for the tea and treats, and to Nancy Holmes for organizing the raffle and silent auction. If your breakout section has a raffle or auction item to donate, please contact Nancy at (559) 901-7536. Even individuals or businesses can donate if they wish. Just make sure Nancy can get these



December AAUW Program December 11, 2021 AAUW HOLIDAY TEA

WHERE: Home of Susan Mathews
3933 W. Woodside Ct, Visalia
EVENT: Holiday Tea
DATE: December 11th
TIME: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

After missing last year's Holiday Tea it is wonderful to be back together again for our annual Tea. Be ready to enjoy visiting with each other, tasty treats and tea and the famous, exciting raffle! Hope to see you there.



Holiday Tea Fundraiser
Where do the proceeds from our Holiday Tea go? The proceeds from our annual prize raffle and silent auction go directly to our Visalia-Sequoia AAUW branch to support our educational programs. In addition, we usually have an at-the-door donation to support another organization that fits our theme, which this year is equity and inclusion. We were thankful for the wonderful Ice House production last month and want to support the goals of the Ice House theater to become ADA compliant as soon-to-be new owners. So, let's bring extra cash or a check to the tea on December 11th. Make checks out to The Visalia Players with ADA compliance on the memo line. Tax exempt ID No: 94-6114280. Thank you!

items a few days before the tea. Come and celebrate the season---and maybe you'll win a prize! Keep bringing those guests! Have a wonderful holiday season!
Co-presidents Susan Cunningham and Maile Melkonian

Special Interest Group

GREAT DECISIONS

There are a handful of Briefing Books still available for pre-order, at the discounted price of \$30. If you would like one, send a check, made out to "Maile Melkonian", to:

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

We expect delivery by the second week of January, and will notify those who have placed orders when they come in. They will be available for pick-up at the Tulare Co. Public Library in Visalia. Expect our first session to be on February 1, 2022.

GREAT DECISIONS

This is an editorial comment...

Are you interested in what is going on in the world? Come to this group and learn about things you don't hear on the news. It is a great group of people, men and women, who are interested in learning and discussing world problems, issues, and events. It is very, very current.

The way it works is first we read about a topic, (you have to buy the book from Maile for \$30), then we meet together to watch a video twice a month starting in January. Next we break for a "snack", which more often turns into my dinner. Then we have the discussion. I love it so much that I am willing to drive from Morro Bay to attend!

Check it out! \$30 is a small investment for 8 or 9 evenings out with some really cool, intelligent thinking people. (If I do say so myself.) See last month's newsletter for more details or call Maile Melkonian (559) 802-3315 or Pat Foster (559) 901-8685. Come join us.

Betsy Gaudette-Cross

Book Sorting

Have a free Monday morning? Come on out to the warehouse in Exeter and join the Book Sorters for a couple of hours. Sorting books is fun and **you get first dibs on books!** We'd love to see you there! The location is on South G Street, just south of Pine. Time: 8:30 AM. Call Sandy Parmelly for directions (559) 732-2450

Come for an hour or stay for two. It is very flexible and a ton of fun! This is one way you can help our organization earn money for the scholarships we give out.



TIME SENSITIVE

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.
FIND OUT WHERE OUR MONEY GOES!

WANTED...Book sale signs

Do you still have yours?

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.

Suzanne Babcock - (559) 303-9394



Do you know what COFFEE AND CALIFORNIA CONCERNS IS?

It is an awesome breakout group in AAUW. (*One of the reasons why I joined - Betsy) Maile was the person who organized it over the past several years. She recently stepped down in order to take on her duties as co-president of our branch. C&CC still needs someone to take responsibility for running the section. Right now it is inactive. In order to simplify the job, C&CC can meet once a month (instead of twice); and Karen Feezell has GRACIOUSLY offered to host all in-person meetings this year - of course as pandemic conditions allow. (I'm sure she'd be OK if someone else wanted to take a random month, but she is willing.)

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 discussions might be. And, indeed, the presentations and conversations have been truly illuminating. Maile has done an outstanding job, but now the club needs someone else to run it. **PLEASE?!??**

If anyone is interested in chairing, please contact Maile - 559-802-3315, maile.melkonian@icloud.com

AAUW NEEDS YOU!

It's time to see how you can help Visalia-Sequoia AAUW in the future. We need a few volunteers to help us create a slate of candidates for next year's board. We must establish a Nominating Committee which would call prospective leaders and encourage them to become a board member. If you could join this committee, please contact Susan Cunningham (559) 901-5545 or Maile Melkonian (559) 802-3315. **If you would like to step into a board position, please let us know.** Ask a current board member what they do to support our mission. Sound like something you'd enjoy? Then be receptive to the Nominating Committee when they call. We succeed when we work together. How rewarding our work is!

New Member! Put her in your book.

We would like to introduce our newest member to AAUW. Please welcome Bonnie Thiele. She is a graduate of University of the Pacific and garnered her PhD in Education in 2003. She joins the many members of our organization who were part of the education community. She notes her occupation is teaching at Fresno Pacific as well as being the supervisor for student teachers. Bonnie enjoys traveling and reading good books. Please make her welcome when you meet her at one of our monthly meetings.

Bonnie Thiele
1092 Belmont St
Tulare CA 93274
bonnie.thiele6287@gmail.com

University of the Pacific
PHD Education 2003
559-260-4111

Interests are books, and travel.
Occupation: Teacher/ Fresno Pacific
Student Teacher Supervisor

There is still time to donate! 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.



PLAN YOUR SCHEDULE NOW SO YOU CAN ATTEND OUR NEXT THREE MEETINGS!



January 20, 2022 (Thursday) 11:30am-1:30pm
 LOCATION: Lamp Light Inn, 3300 W. Mineral King Ave.
 PROGRAM: **"The Impact of Climate on Mineral King's History"**
 PRESENTER: Lisa Montelro, Mineral King Preservation Soc., Dir.
 Mineral King's fickle weather patterns and often harsh climate have played a major role in the area's settlement. From visitation patterns of the Yokuts and Wukchumni, to those seeking riches from mining, the resort era, and even the proposed Disneyland project, weather has affected its vibrant history. The Society works with the National Park Service to highlight the area's archeology and history. Lunch: \$20.

February 17, 2022 (Thursday) 4:00-6:30pm
 LOCATION: Congregation Sinai David, 1038 B. Oakview St.
 PROGRAM: **"Ways to Improve Your Balance and Strength"**
 PRESENTER: Dr. Jennifer Elliott, Physical Therapist, Kaweah Health Clinic
 Come give yourself a personal Valentine by following along with Dr. Elliott as she guides us through a routine of gentle exercises to strengthen our bodies, work on better balance, and boost walking with ease. Dress in comfortable workout clothes and shoes.

March 17, 2022 (Thursday) 4:00-6:00pm
 LOCATION: Visalia Community Center, Sequoia Room, 303 E. Acacia
 PROGRAM: **"Equity in our Schools"**
 PRESENTER: Brandon Giddon, U.S.D. Administrator for Equity and Student Services
 The national conversation around equity—whether racial, physical, gender or economic—resonates locally, as well. Visalia Unified School District created an administrative position to focus on this, and work to improve opportunities for all students to learn effectively.