



Sequoia News

March AAUW Program

IMPORTANT!!! MEETING LOCATION HAS CHANGED! • GENERAL MEETING NOW GOING TO BE AT THE LAMPLITER INN!

Date: March 17th (Thursday)

Time: 4:00-5:30 (doors open at 3:30)

Location: Lamp Liter Inn 3300 W. Mineral King Ave.

Program: "Equity In Our Schools"

Presenter: Brandon Gridiron, VUSD Administrator for Equity and Student Services

With this month being Black History month, and with the recent events surrounding equal rights for Blacks, Gender equality, LGBTQ, and other concerns in our country and city, the national conversation resonates locally in our schools. Visalia Unified School District created an administrative position to focus on these concerns and to work to improve opportunities for all students to learn effectively and thrive. As many of our members are former teachers, an update on progress and programs available should interest all of us. **Please bring masks to wear when not eating or drinking to protect our members and speaker.**

Hors d'oeuvres will be served: \$15 per person. Please make reservations with Sherri Bentley at sherribentley49@gmail.com, or 559-288-5429.

We need your help! Please click on the link and sign up for the book sale.

Here is the link for the sign ups for the Book sale. If you are using a table or phone, you must have a gmail account to do so. If you need help call Allison Babcock. (559) 556-5394

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1W6Rmd4IGnZD47H7s4xbKq_i83suyWt2ryvkxuRqPKOU/edit?usp=sharing

Notes from the Presidents:

Susan Cunningham & Maile Melkonian

"For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way: Good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day." –Irish blessing

Everyone feels Irish in March! We want to believe in luck and magic. With a little Irish luck, we'll be back to meeting in person in March. As you know, our Branch Theme this year is "Inclusion and Equity"—an important topic these days. Our March 17 presenter will speak directly to how this issue is being addressed in our local schools. (See program details on this page.) Brandon Gridiron is the first person ever to hold the newly-created V.U.S.D. position of Administrator for Equity and Student Services. Come hear all about it.

Also in the spirit of our presidents' theme, we are asking members to bring a guest to this meeting—even if they are not eligible for AAUW membership. And if they **are** eligible, **great!**

We have plenty to be happy about:

- We had a successful hybrid meeting in February with Dr. Jennifer Elliott, a physical therapist who showed us ways to improve our balance and health. Thirteen people, joined in person, and five more joined by Zoom! Dr. Elliott was personable and offered helpful accommodations.
- The scholarship committee has chosen 7 worthy recipients to receive our annual COS scholarships. Wait until May to meet these amazing students! Thanks to Nan-Celia, Phyllis, and Liz!
- The Tech Trek committee is excited that our program will offer both CSUF campus and virtual camps this summer! Thanks Jeanne, Jane, and Susan! This committee would love to expand.

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- Contact Jeanne Evans if you too can work enrich the lives of STEM campers.
- Ssssh...it's a secret! The AAUW Fund committee has chosen one of our members as our branch's Honored Member! You'll find out in May whose hard work and devotion to AAUW's programs is being recognized. Thanks to Nancy H.'s committee!
- And, we are having a second book sale from March 28-April 4. Thank you to Jan, Sandy, and the team of book sorters.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Susan Cunningham and Maile Melkonian, Co-Presidents

Special Interest Group

Great Decisions - March

This month our topics from the Foreign Policy Association are particularly timely! Maile and I decided to change the order of our topics given the events of this week. We will talk about Russia next Tuesday and climate change on March 15.

March 1 Putin's Russia

March 15 The renewed climate change agenda

March 29 Myanmar's never-ending crisis

All meetings are on zoom, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm. with Master Class lectures and local discussion.

A reminder will be sent out prior to each session with the link.

The Walkers

are still walking Tuesday and Thursday 8-9AM at Lifestyles. Once the weather gets warmer, we will be walking outside. There are only 2 of us and we would like more! Questions? Call Marsha, (559) 741-1165

The Bookworms

are still meeting monthly. January's book selection was *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr. February's book selection will be Aesop's Fables. We have 7 women but we would like more!

We need your help!

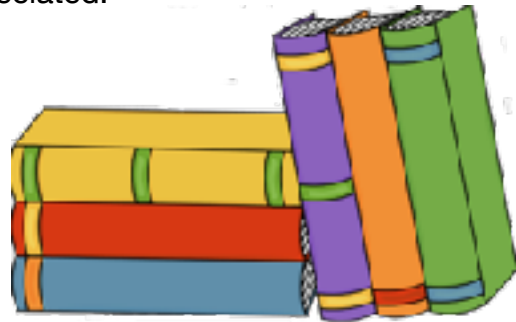
With the book sale on its way March 29-April 3rd, we need to get the word out.

So.....

we need to put out around the entire city our prominent book sale signs. They can go up as early as March 14 so that everyone knows the dates and can plan to buy many books!

I will have the signs available for pick up at my house on March 13 and 14 in the afternoon. If you need different pick up date/time, let me know and hopefully we can make other arrangements. You can place the signs in your yard or any other private residence with permission, but remember you do need to collect the signs at the end of the sale and return them to me.

These book sale signs are one of the most important forms of advertising our sale...and the proceeds are what fund our scholarships. So we do need to get these signs out around the city. Your help is necessary and very appreciated!



Ladies - The book sale is almost here - March 29 - April 3. Signups will be online as usual and will begin March 1. Please sign up for a shift or two. We all need to pitch in as this is our only fundraiser. If you have trouble online, please email Alison Babcock - ally112087@yahoo.com or call (559) 556-5394 Thanks to all - Jan Johnson

WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR DUES?

Donna Nottingham
Branch Treasurer

Yearly we pay DUES to be a member of AAUW. Last year we paid \$95.00 in dues. This year our dues will be increasing to \$100.00, to accommodate an increase at the national level.

This is how our dues will be distributed in the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year:

NATIONAL will receive \$67.00 which is 67% of your dues - there are over 1,000 branches with over 170,000 members throughout the nation. If you do the math that is $\$67 \times 170,000$ members which gives National \$11,390,000.00 (eleven MILLION). So that is a pretty big number. Let us say there are 10,000 of those members who have either paid lifetime dues or are 50-year members and no longer pay dues....that brings the dues down to **\$10,720,000.00**. Still a large number for ANNUAL DUES. The bulk of this money funds substantial scholarships for women and girls across the country, and supports the legal costs of defending women's rights (especially for equal pay, protection against domestic violence, and access to childcare) sometimes all the way to the Supreme Court.

STATE will receive \$20 which is 20% of your dues. There are 125 branches with approximately 12,000 members throughout California. If we do the math that is $\$20 \times 12,000$ which gives State **\$240,000.00**. This goes toward similar scholarship and legal projects at the State level, as well as STEM education for girls, etc.

OUR Branch will receive \$13 which is 13% of your dues - there is only ONE of us with a membership of 130, twelve of whom are 50-year members. If we do the math that is **\$1,534.00** to help sustain our branch. Which is NOT very MUCH to run an organization!

If we look at just the ADMINISTRATIVE expenses of our branch (expenses minus the Philanthropic Programs and philanthropic related expenses) we need \$2,835.00. This \$2,835.00 is the BARE minimum we need to pay for insurance, newsletters, rosters, annual PO Box rental, meeting space rent for general and board meetings, and fees required by the state to function as a non profit organization. We are a NEGATIVE \$1,301.00 based on the dues we receive from our membership. If you divide the short fall into our membership of 118 it works out to be \$11.02 per person per YEAR. Many of us spend MORE than that on coffee or chocolate per WEEK!

A couple of suggestions to consider to overcome our deficit would be:

- RECRUIT and RETAIN new members
- INCREASE dues by a minimum of \$11.00 (personally I would be in favor of \$15 to give us a cushion for future NATIONAL DUES INCREASES).

**Women Power - We
are strong when
we work together**



Mark Your Calendar

March 17, 2022 (Thursday)

4:00–5:30pm

LOCATION: LampLiter

PROGRAM: **“Equity in our Schools”**

PRESENTER: Brandon Gridiron, V.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.

April 21, 2022 (Thursday)

11:30am–1:30pm

LOCATION: Lamp Liter Inn, 3300 W. Mineral King Ave.

PROGRAM: **“Genealogy 101”**

PRESENTER: Lorene Clark, President, Sequoia Genealogical Society

Are you curious about your ancestry, and thinking you might want to do a bit of genealogy, but don't know how to start? Learn the basics: how to research, record and document your family's lineage, to provide a heritage resource for the next generation. Lunch: \$21.

May 14, 2022 (Saturday)

2:00–4:00pm

LOCATION: Congregation B'nai David, 1039 S. Chinowth St.

EVENT: **Scholarship Reception**

After the CoVID-19 hiatus, we look forward to, once again, meeting our scholarship recipients face-to-face. Hear the heartwarming stories of how these worthy C.O.S. students have met incredible challenges in pursuit of their higher-education goals. We also get to meet three Tech Trekkers who have excelled despite the pandemic.

