



# Sequoia News

## Notes from the Presidents:

Susan Cunningham & Maile Melkonian

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” –Nelson**

### Mandela

Spring is here! This month, we are wrapping up most of our Visalia-Sequoia AAUW activities for 2021-2022. I'll be exiting the position of Co-President this summer after two unusual, but wonderful, years working with Liz Kieseke and Maile Melkonian and our amazing Board. We had a successful year, navigating through Omicron surges and gathering when we could. We continued our commitment to education through our COS Scholarships, Expanding Your Horizons, Tech Trek, and (for the first time) History Day State Finals.

I absolutely believe that Mandela was right, and that education is how we change the world. Our branch does this on a large scale by putting affordable books in the hands of our community. We also are accomplishing this a few students at a time. We have a life-changing impact on our recipients, so I hope you can join us on **May 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM at Congregation B'nai David** to celebrate our scholars. You will be delighted and awed by the stories of these accomplished COS students. You'll have a peek into the virtual Tech Trek experience. You'll be dazzled by the History Day presentation, and you'll find out which member of our branch has earned the Named Honored Gift Award this year. This is one of my favorite meetings each year!

Hopefully, our theme of Inclusion & Equity was evident in the programs we enjoyed this year. Did you bring a guest to any meeting? Thanks for expanding our audience and bringing our message to more community members. It has been an honor to serve as Co-president!

Sincerely, Susan Cunningham, Co-President

## MAY AAUW Program

**PROGRAM:** Scholarship Reception  
**PLACE:** Congregation B'nai David  
1039 So. Chinowth St  
Visalia, CA  
**DATE:** May 14, 2022, Saturday  
**TIME:** 2:00- 4:00 pm

Our Scholarship Reception is a heartwarming conclusion to our year. It is a time to meet our deserving scholarship recipients and hear their stories of overcoming hardships and challenges. Tech Trek students will tell us about their sessions attending STEM activities sponsored by FSU.

And . . . the winner of the Tulare County History essay will read her essay. She will be going to Sacramento to compete at the state level.

Please give me a call, email, text or note to let us how many to plan for. Thanks!

Phyllis Matteson

Email - [rapmat@aol.com](mailto:rapmat@aol.com)

Phone - 732-1988

Cell or text - 300-5022



## AAUW SUNSHINE

If you know of anyone that needs some “sunshine” please contact **Renella Smith at**

**559-260-9646 or [gregrensmith@gmail.com](mailto: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 Spring Book Sale Update

Once again our spring book sale was a big success. Our sales totaled \$12,667.95. The first day of the sale was our best - over \$5,000! We sold approximately 80 bags of books on the last day. In all, it was a steady sale for us. We all seemed to feel that this sale went seamlessly. The distributing of our lawn signs went smoothly and the returning has been equally smooth. Almost all have been returned. Allison Babcock did a great job of getting out publicity. Jean Moritz reported that she heard about our sale on NPR and some sale shoppers said they heard it on the radio. With less inventory, we were all pleased at the appearance of the sale. Fewer boxes on the floor made for neatness and saved our backs a lot of lifting. Relocating of our books by moving fiction to the east side allowed for better access for our buyers.

This is my last sale as logistics manager. I am turning over the reins to Susan Cunningham. She along with Sandy Parmelly, our warehouse manager, will continue with our mission of bring books and literacy to Tulare County. Great job, Ladies!!

Jan Johnson

## AAUW Forums for Primary Elections

AAUW – in collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Tulare County and other partners—will be holding two candidate forums in preparation for the June 7 Primary Election.

The first one on May 3 is the Tulare County Board of Supervisors District 4 forum. The new District 4 comprises the entire north-most part of Tulare County, including part of north-central Visalia. Four candidates are running for that seat. The forum will be in Woodlake at the Veterans Memorial Building at 6:00pm.

The second forum is May 12 at the Tulare County Office of Education, 6200 S. Mooney Blvd, 6:00 – 8:30pm. This forum is for state Senate Districts 12 and 16, Assembly 33, and Congressional districts 20, 21, and 22.

Take this opportunity to hear from the candidates in person, and to submit the questions you want answered. **See flyer on Page 3.**

Terry Cornelius

## DID YOU KNOW...

that AAUW usually gives out **\$15,000 worth of scholarship to 7 COS recipients???** How 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.** If you want to receive emails about sorting, contact Jean Moritz at [moritzjl@hotmail.com](mailto: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 if they choose. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. We really need more book sorters!

Hope to see you there!



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

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

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**  
**AND COME JOIN THE FUN!**





### State Senate

District 12 – Fresno, Kern and Tulare counties  
 District 16 – Kings, Kern, and Tulare counties

### State Assembly

District 32 - Fresno, Kern and Tulare counties  
 District 33 – Kings, Kern and Tulare counties

### Congress

District 20 - Fresno, Kern, and Tulare counties  
 District 21 – Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties  
 District 22 – Kings, Kern and Tulare counties

All candidates have been invited to attend this forum.

English-Spanish interpretation will be available.

**Candidate Forum Sponsored By:** **Candidates Forum Information**



LEAGUE of UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS



WHEN **THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022**

WHERE **Tulare County Office of Education**  
 6200 S Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA 93277



Tulare County League of Mexican American Women  
 EDUCATION | LEADERSHIP | CULTURE

Visalia Times Delta  
 Part of the Sun Community Network

TIME **6:00PM - 8:30PM**

Doors open at 5:30PM



CENTRAL VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

Will be Lived Streamed via DHF Facebook and Valley Voice Facebook

## A Few Images From The Book Sale This March



Working the book sale: Mary Weisenberger, Jean Moritz, Nancy Holmes, Maile Melkonian, Bonnie Thiele



To all the workers at the book sale this year... thank you! And to all of you who came to the mall and bought books, we appreciate your support. This book sale would not be a success without everyone.



## WE NEED YOU!

Coffee & CA Concerns, remember this group? If you didn't attend any of those meetings, you don't know what you were missing. It needs a volunteer to step forward to lead. Maile was the leader of this group for years before she became co-president of AAUW. We went the whole year without it. It was missed!

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!***

### REMEMBER THESE DATES!

*AAUW Scholarship Night with COS is Thursday evening, May 5, 2022, starting at 6:30. It is located in Porter Field House Gymnasium on Woodland Avenue.*

*AAUW Scholarship Reception is Saturday, May 14, 2022, from 2:00 to ?.*

*It is located in Congregation B'nai David, 1039 S. Chinowth Street in Visalia.*

**The Program Vice Presidents** are already thinking about programs for the 2022-2023 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](mailto:sherribentley49@gmail.com)

#### Susan Mathews

739-1449 731-8074 (cell)  
[smathews18@gmail.com](mailto:smathews18@gmail.com)

#### Phyllis Matteson

732-1988 300-5022 (cell)  
[rapmat@aol.com](mailto:rapmat@aol.com)

## Everyone Needs To Read & Act...

***Dues notifications will be sent to your email box starting in May.*** Look for an AAUW Membership invoice from national and use the online system to renew. This is the easiest and most convenient way to pay dues. Please renew early so we can assemble the yearbook.

For information on how our dues are distributed see Donna Nottingham's article in the March 2022 newsletter found online at AAUW Visalia-Sequoia (CA) Branch, and click on "newsletters".  
<https://visaliasequoia-ca.aauw.net/>

Dues are \$100 and can be paid by check sent to:  
P.O. Box 6, Visalia,  
CA 93279  
or directly to me at:  
2412 S. Encina St.,  
Visalia CA 93277.

Still this is a cumbersome way of paying and the online method of payment is easier and preferred.

Look for the renewal invoices to arrive around mid-May. Please call, text, or email if you have any questions.

Jean Moritz  
(559)731-3067  
[moritzjl@hotmail.com](mailto:moritzjl@hotmail.com)  
Membership Treasurer



## Section/Interest Groups

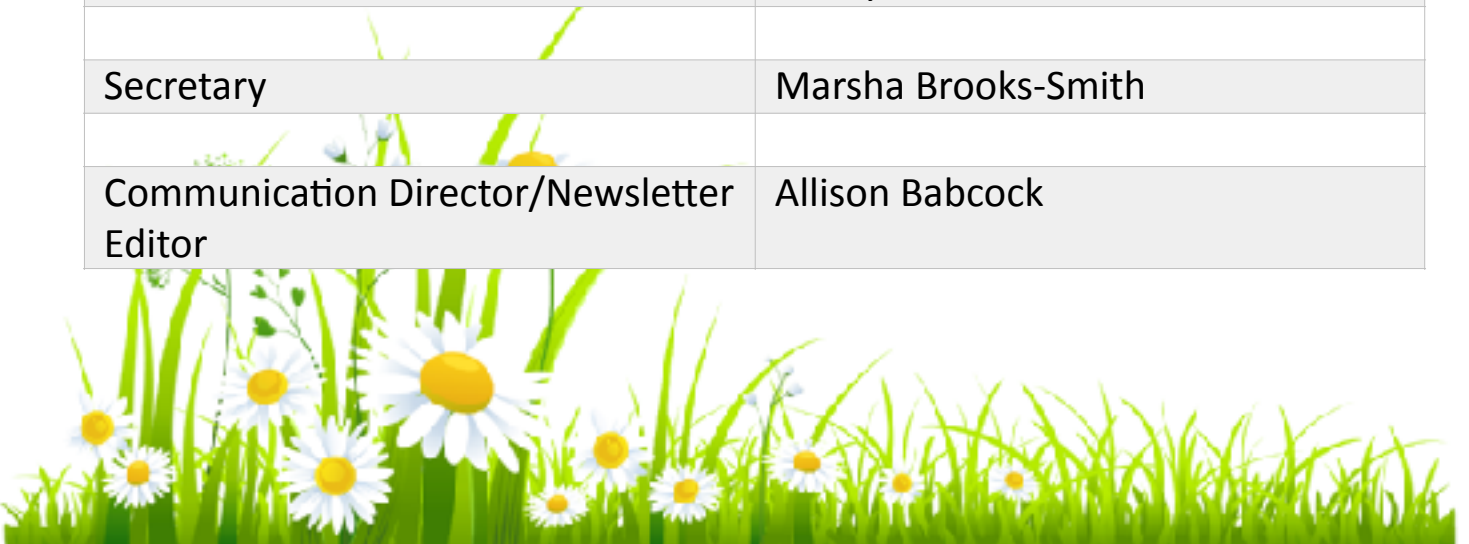
Do you know all the groups that AAUW has?

- Book Sorters
- Book Worms
- Bridge
- Great Decisions
- Knit Wits
- Refresher bridge
- Traveling Troopers
- Unabridged Book Group
- Volunteer Visalia
- Weekly Walkers

Check out all the group's times and descriptions on page 5 of our directory.

**Thank you to the volunteers who serve as officers, and thank you to the members who elected them at our April meeting! There are still ways for you to help on appointed committees! Both Tech Trek and Expanding Your Horizons want to expand their committees. Contact Maile Melkonian (559) 802-3315 or Lisa Silva (559) 786-3280 if you want to join a committee.**

Visalia-Sequoia AAUW slate of candidates for 2022-2023 year	
Co-presidents	Maile Melkonian
	Lisa Silva
Co-president Elects	Linda Tucker
	TBD
Program Vice President	Sherri Bentley
Membership Vice President	Suzanne Babcock
Membership Treasurer	Jean Moritz
Treasurer	Donna Nottingham
Financial Director	Susan Franciscovich
Honored Member Fund VP	Nancy Holmes
Secretary	Marsha Brooks-Smith
Communication Director/Newsletter Editor	Allison Babcock



## Welcome to our two newest members Lisa Smale and Mercia Mount

Lisa went to school at CSU Fresno and CSU Bakersfield. She graduated in Psychology in 1986 and got another degree in Counseling in 1996. She has worked in the Social Services field as a therapist. She enjoys crochet, walking, and reading good books. Based on these interests, the Knit Wits and Weekly Walkers might have a new member! Her contact information is 2334 E. Tulare Ave, Visalia and her phone number is (661)616-8339. Her email address is [smalelisa@aol.com](mailto:smalelisa@aol.com)

Our other new member is Mercia Mount. Mercia got her BA in Education from CSU Fresno in 1967. She had a lengthy career in the education field as a teacher and more recently as a substitute. She also enjoys reading and good book discussions. Her contact information is 3240 S. Bridge St, Visalia and her phone number is (559)670-8310. Her email is [garmert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garmert@sbcglobal.net)

Let's do what we can to make these ladies feel welcome!

**GOOD BYE FOR NOW...** It's time for me to say good bye to you as the editor of this newsletter, but hopefully not as friends. If you have gotten to the end of this newsletter and see this, well, thank you for reading this far. I have loved being on the board, and have loved the work that this organization does. As a teacher, anything I can do to encourage people to go to college makes me happy. I miss book sorting, the book sale, Coffee and California Concerns, and getting together with you all, but don't count me out entirely. Hopefully I can make a meeting or two next year as a "guest". We still have a condo in Visalia since my husband is still working, so I will be over there once in awhile. Meanwhile, let me know if you are ever in Morro Bay. I have a nice deck, view of the rock and ocean, and I love company.

*Betsy Gaudette-Cross*

