

# The Sequoia Newsletter

Visalia-Sequoia AAUW

## CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER



*"Uncertainty is the only certainty there is..."* —John Allen Paulos

Yes, this is the same epigraph we used last September, but it seems just as apt now. We are still dealing with the uncertainties of Covid-19 (pandemic? epidemic? endemic?), but are forging ahead with a full calendar of activities this year. Kudos to the Program Committee—Sherri Bentley, Susan Mathews and Jan Johnson—for coming up with an intriguing slate of speakers to enhance our Branch meetings. The Yearbook will have details. Our Zoom

account keeps our options open—for Branch, Board, Section and Committee meetings alike.

The well-oiled machine that is our semi-annual Book Sale hit a speed bump last month, when the venue looked uncertain. Coordinators Susan Cunningham and Sandy Parmel got right on it, though, and managed to negotiate a neat solution. And Suzanne Babcock deftly pivoted with our signage orders. Please note that an earlier date than usual means that we will need all hands on deck. See below.

Lisa's and my theme this year is **"Lifting Local Lit-**

**eracy."** Our Book Sale does much to advance this—by keeping books in circulation in our book store-challenged area and by funding our often life-changing scholarships. (It also keeps tons of material out of landfills!) Our programming this year will be featuring a number of educators and authors. Our local support of Tech Trek and Expanding Your Horizons encourages girls to apply literacy toward STEM careers. Our stalwart book sections keep members well-read. In addition, we are looking into initiating a literacy project at the elementary school level. Stay tuned.

Yes, your Board has had a busy summer. Susan Franciskovich and Donna Nottingham prepped a budget—approved by the Board—that augurs well for the year ahead. Parliamentarian Nancy Adalian has been leading a needed review of our Policies and Procedures. And this newsletter is Ally Babcock's debut edition! Enjoy reading all about Branch news in this and future issues.

Welcome back to a new year with Visalia-Sequoia AAUW!

Co-Presidents Maile Melkonian & Lisa Silva

## SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

**September 15, 2022 (Thursday)  
11:30-1:30 PM**

**Location: Lamp Liter Inn,**

**Program: "C.O.S. 2.0"**

**Presenter: Brent Calvin, President, College of the Sequoias**

As we are just starting our new AAUW year for 2022-23 this September, wouldn't it be like a step back in time to our college days to hear what's new on our local college campus? If you

have driven by the C.O.S. campus lately, you may have noticed changes to the campus. From buildings to beautification projects, to new programs, there's lots going on at the college. Join us for an update from the president to learn what's new and have a chance to hear from our relatively new C.O.S. president. You will also have opportunity to sign up for interest groups, and hear

what programs are coming your way this year.

Lunch: \$20/person.

### Important!!!!

Please make reservations to Jan Johnson by Tuesday Sept. 13: 625-2926.

Jan Johnson, Program Committee Member

### BOARD MEETING

**Monday, Sept. 12**

**2:00 p.m.**

**At the home of Jan Johnson**

**New Book Sale**  
**Dates**

**September 26**  
**(set up day)**

**September 27-October**  
**2**  
**(sale)**

**October 3**  
**(clean up)**



***How you can help***

1. Click **book sale volunteer worker signup sheet here** and find a couple of shifts to work. Our membership is smaller this year, so please pick at least two. We need you!
2. If possible, come on out to the warehouse on G Street in Exeter (behind Sequoia Orange) on Mondays between 8:30 and 10:30 to help sort books. We are way behind

- and have only 4 more sorting weeks before the sale. Perk: You get first dibs on books to read!
3. We've lost our public announcements because they require a 3-month notification. So yard signs, social media, and our website are our best bets. Consider sharing our sale details on your favorite social media platform.

# HUGE BOOK SALE NEWS

Susan Cunningham, Book Sale Coordinator

Did you hear the rumors? Our fall book sale is in peril? Canceled? Is this the end of over fifty years of funds from our FAMOUS Visalia-Sequoia AAUW book sale? Well, it's been an agonizing two weeks of uncertainty, but we finally have our sale planned. It's short notice, so read the information below and be ready to help.

## HISTORY

Our AAUW book sale began in 1965 in Margo Tressler's backyard. It has grown over the past 57 years into a major community event and the lifeblood of our educational support of C.O.S. scholars, Tech Trek, and Expanding Your Horizons. After it became too much for backyards, it continued in the Visalia Mall until the mall decided in 1993 to no longer host nonprofit organi-

zations. Then we found our home in the Sequoia Mall, which has provided our venue, tables, skirts, tablecloths, and security for almost 20 years. We are greatly indebted to the mall owners, most recently Paynter Realty, and mall manager, Diane Sherrill, for their incredible support of our mission.

## NOW WHAT?

The owners of Sequoia Mall have planned projects to change the facility. The manager, Diane, was unable to confirm our original October dates, but was hoping we could work something out. We had a nervous waiting

period, but good news finally came. With her help, we were able to secure new dates before the projects begin. It means a bit of a scramble for us to catch up, but we're determined to make it work.

## Other Changes?

Inflation, inflation. Yes, our prices are going back up to the levels of 2014-2016. One of our goals is to offer thousands of books to our community at an affordable price. But our main goal is to fund our educational programs, thus the increase in some prices:

**Hardbound books: \$3**

**Trade paperbacks: \$2 (larger sized)**

**Mass Market paperbacks: \$1 (smaller sized)**

**We need your help getting out book sale signs!**

Suzanne Babcock, Section Chair

With the book sale on its way September 27-October 2, 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 September 12 so that everyone knows the dates and can plan to buy many books! I will have the signs available for board members at our board meeting on September 12. I will also bring signs to the general

meeting on September 15. 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!**



## MAY SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

Susan Cunningham, Scholarship Committee Member

Last May our Visalia-Sequoia Branch was proud to present our C.O.S. Scholars, our Tech Trek participants, and the State History finalist to our members at our scholarship reception. It was a heartwarming celebration of educational endeavors. How wonderful to see the enthusiasm of our recipients in person! We were able to be extra generous due to the memorial donations from the family of Mary Lou Flattley. We also were able to add to our awards because of our members' generosity in

memory of Margo Tressler, Ruth Sibbett, and Mary Lou Flattley. Huge thanks go to the Chairs who work tirelessly to make dreams come true!



## HONORED MEMBER FUND

I was privileged as Vice President of the Honored Member Fund to award Jan Johnson a Named Gift Award. Jan has gone beyond the norms to ensure the success of AAUW's many programs. She was President in 2014, sorts books, was book sale coordinator, and is group chair of Volunteer Visalia.

Thank you Jan !!

Nancy Holmes, Fund Vice President



The in-person Fresno State Tech Trek Camp in June was thoroughly enjoyed by our three attendees! Destiny Chavez and Greer Olson from Ridgeview as well as Lyla Schelich from Green Acres made personal growth from the activities, core classes, and the experiences of being on a college campus and meeting new friends.

Jeanne Evans  
Tech Trek Committee Chair

Dear Visalia-Sequoia branch, thank you so much for sending me and giving me the chance to come to tech trek. I am having a lot of fun making new friends. I'll be so sad to leave them. I love CSI it's so fun and cool learning about how to analyze crime scenes. I could do that for a living. The activities were so fun, I want to be a counselor as soon I have the opportunity.  
-Lyla Schelich

## TECH TREK CAMP

Dear Visalia-Sequoia branch, Thank you so much for letting me be able to have this amazing experience! At first, I was scared and nervous to be with people I don't know and leave my family for a week for the first time. But then I met new people and made friends and I was able to learn about structural engineering in my core class and do a super fun ropes course that helped me get over my fear of heights. So all in all, thank you for your hard work to let me experience this and inspire to become a spirit guide in the future.  
-Sincerely, Destiny/DJ Chavez

Dear Tech-Trek, I Tech-Trek has been the most memorable experience I've had! The people here work so hard on everything they do. I've never felt more at home with my dorm mates and new friends! The activities are extremely fun. My favorites were definitely the ropes course and free time! The ropes course was super difficult, but really rewarding! It combined being physically and emotionally strong and also strengthened our teamwork. Free time was super exciting because I could hang out with friends, listen to music, and it wasn't super crowded. Also, we played a week long game inspired by DND! The developer, Rebecca, worked so hard being creative and the spirit guides and dorm moms also took the time to bring it to life! Core classes were also enjoyable! Learning new things is always important and fun! I had Structural Engineering and I learned so much! From bridges frequently to the process of buildings being made. Tech-Trek is the best experience I've ever had. My gratitude towards everyone here is indescribable. I love this camp and everyone I've met. Thank you so much Tech-Trek!  
Visalia - Greer Olson 2022



## Visalia - Sequoia AAUW

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We're on the web!

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## WEEKLY WALKERS

Due to the Summer's heat, we have been walking on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Lifestyle's Gym, off Akers on Cypress. We walk from 8AM-9AM. It is air-conditioned! Once the heat goes away, we will be back to walking around town. Some of our walks are at Mooney Grove Park, Stonebridge Park, Blain Park, Sunset Park or wherever there is a nice place to walk.

We would love to have more people join us. We are not race walkers, but we do walk at a steady pace.

If you are interested, you may call Dona Meinhardt (732-8421) or Marsha Brooks-Smith (741-1165) to see where we will walk next!



Marsha Brooks-Smith, Section Chair

## UNABRIDGED BOOK GROUP

The Unabridged Book group members always look forward to their traditional August salad luncheon at the home of group member Roven Forest. This year did not disappoint. Instead of reading and discussing the group's monthly chosen book, in August we all share about what we have been reading individually. It's always a fun and lively afternoon. There is a free flowing of new titles, authors, ideas, and with the group's blessings, it's basically a time to talk about most anything.

And, it must be mentioned, that it's a chance for us all to show off our culinary skills, as we bring our salads to share. Our recipes range from the very latest to treasured old family favorites.

Something is happening subtly to our group gatherings. Because of the many months of being confined to pandemic Zoom meetings, our in-person gatherings now seem to last longer, with more lingering, more chatter and a deeper appreciation of the comradery of just being together.



Susan Franciskovich, Section Chair