

# The Sequoia Newsletter

Visalia - Sequoia AAUW

## CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER



*"I cannot sleep unless I am surrounded by books."* — Jorge Luis Borges

Our **Book Sale** is in progress as this newsletter goes to print, and we're guessing our intrepid crew of book sorters has been sleeping quite soundly! With uncertainty about our Spring Book Sale, they've put in extra hours in order to make sure everything we have is on the tables. Much gratitude to everyone who has volunteered, making the job of Coordinators Susan Cunningham and Sandy Parmelly easier. By keeping books in circulation, we certainly are "**Lifting Local Literacy.**"

With the California legislative cycle wrapping up, and the General Election just ahead, this is a busy season for our Public Policy Chair Terry Cornelius. By the time you read this, we will know the fate of **AB-92** (see below), a top AAUW State priority designed to make life easier for working women. Also, our Branch is helping plan a voter information event at 210 on **October 11: "What's on Your Ballot? Navigating the Propositions."** Don't miss it!

We're quite thrilled to see **Coffee & California Concerns** rebooting this month. Co-chairs Mary Ann Lawrence and Jill Rojas welcome all interested members.

It really was a pleasure to see such a convivial turnout for our September Branch meeting. Speaker Brent Calvin, of C.O.S., seemed to enjoy the meeting, too—as much as we enjoyed his update on important plans for higher ed in our area.

The weather has cooled a bit, after a punishingly hot and dry summer. One aspect of drought-wise best practices and cultivating livable environments is planting and nurturing trees. Susan Franciskovich has arranged for **Master Gardener Cathy Ronk** to give us tips at our upcoming Branch meeting. And we get to see the U.C. Extension venue, too!

Also, our **new budget**—prepped by Susan F. and Donna Nottingham—will be up for membership approval at this meeting. Communications Director Ally Babcock sent it with this newsletter, so you can peruse it before then.

Meanwhile, sweet book-surrounded dreams to all!

Co-Presidents Maile Melkonian & Lisa Silva

**BOARD MEETING**  
 Tuesday, Oct. 18  
 2:00 p.m.  
 At the home of Lisa Silva

## OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

**October 20, 2022 (Thursday)**  
**2:00-3:30 PM**  
**Location: UCCE Main Office, 4437 S. Laspina St. Tulare Ca.** (directly across from the International Farm Show on the east side of 99). **Please note correction of address from the directory**  
**Program:** "Now that we are in drought what can we possibly plant???"  
 Cathy Ronk, highly experienced and respected Master Gardener, tree expert will share interesting and useful basic information for AAUW homeowners and gardeners of all levels, with a keen fo-

cus on drought challenged San Joaquin Valley landscaping. Cathy will offer some excellent advice for the successful care of your trees and ideas for attractive drought-tolerant trees to plant. Since fall is the best time to plant in our area, you will definitely receive a first-class beginners Master Gardener course in trees. Since this is in Tulare, members may want to carpool with others. Give our program chairs a call if you are interested in being transported to the Farm Advisers office. No cost for program

Sherri Bentley, Program Committee Member



# 2022-23 PROGRAMS

Sherri Bentley, Program Committee Member

The program committee (Sherri Bentley, Susan Mathews, Jan Johnson) have worked diligently this summer to come up with general meeting programs that will interest our members. We take into consideration previous successful meetings as well as keeping some programs in line with our AAUW mission to encourage and promote education and opportunities for women and girls, as well as our president's theme this year: Promoting Literacy in Tulare County. Please bear in mind costs have risen in restaurants, as well as deposits that must be paid for sites. Therefore, please remember to make your reservation by four days before the meeting (which is usually the day we make a final head count to the restaurant). You don't

have to send in payment, but bring payment to the meeting, either cash or check. If you need to cancel, please do that by the four days before the meeting as well. If you don't cancel, we do need you to honor the cost of your reservation so costs can be covered. We try hard to allow for last minute attendance, but we would really appreciate it if you could reserve your spot rather than just arriving, so that all attending have enough food. Think of it like a dinner party you may be hosting. If too many people don't come, you have a lot of leftover food and chairs. If unexpected people come, you may not have enough food.  
Thanks, Sherri Bentley

### Program Titles:

- October 20 "In A Drought, What Can We Possibly Plant?", **Cathy Ronk**, Master Gardener
- November 17, "Perspectives on Writing, Teaching, and The Importance of Literature in Our Lives", **Christina Lynch** author and professor
- December 10, Holiday Tea
- January 19 "The ABC's of V.U.S.D.", Superintendent **William Shrum**
- February 16 "Improving Literacy In Tulare County" with **Ann Brodersen, Katie Mann, Edward Williams and Ken Baker**
- March 16, "One Woman's Story: The Effect of WWII Japanese-American Internment on Family" **Nancy Bellin**
- April 20, "Big Trees-Big Impact", journalist and photographer **Lee Terkelson**
- May 13, Scholarship Reception, Scholarship committee

## New Members!!!

We would also like to re-welcome Donna Kindschuh to AAUW. She has been a member in the past, and decided to join again now that things are beginning to look a bit normal. Please welcome her into C and CC...as that was one group she was truly interested in!



We also have a new Member, Tracy Hamilton. She is learning Bridge and enjoys reading. Hope she will enjoy some of our interest groups.

Suzanne Babcock, Membership Co-chair

**Distribution of the  
2022-2023 YEARBOOK  
is complete.  
Any copies not picked up at  
the September Branch  
meeting were mailed.**

## TREASURER NOTE

Under separate cover you will receive a copy of the PROPOSED BUDGET for the 2022-2023 fiscal year for our branch. We will be voting to accept the proposed budget as our operating budget at the October general meeting. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the report. There will be opportunity at the October general meeting for discussion. Thanks

Donna Nottingham, Treasurer

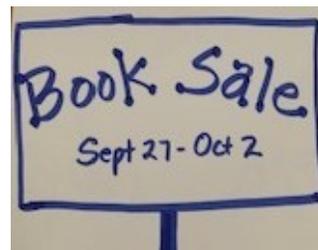
## BOOK SALE SIGNS...

Thank you to those who volunteered to put up signs advertising our book sale. Those signs bring in many people who then buy books to fund our scholarships. But now it is time to collect those signs and return them, so they can be used again in the future.

Please return the signs to 3224 S. Ernest Street (home of Suzanne Babcock) as soon as possible. If I am not home, feel free to leave them on the porch with your name on them, so I know who I can cross off my check out list. If you got the sign from a section leader, feel free to return the sign to them, and they can cross your name off of their list. Using the signs over and over again is really the only way we can advertise and make a profit on the sale.

**THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP...IT IS INVALUABLE.**

Suzanne Babcock, Book Sale Sign Chair



# SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Susan Cunningham, Scholarship Committee Member

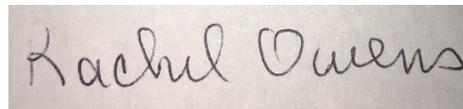
All too often, we are clueless about how our COS graduates have fared in the years after receiving an AAUW. So here is a rare peek at a letter that shows how our hard work pays off:

*It's been several years since I received a scholarship from AAUW, but I would like AAUW to realize how much their support meant to me. The financial assistance came at a particularly helpful time, just as I transferred from COS to University of the Pacific (UOP) in Stockton. Also, the process of interviewing and receiving this scholarship gave me confidence in myself as I moved on to more difficult studies. UOP was a fantastic learning experience. I received my BS in Electrical Engineering in December 2020 and graduated*

*as valedictorian after being awarded the 2021 Jay W. Heefner award by the electrical engineering department faculty for "most promising electrical engineering senior." I began working for Raytheon Technologies, a large defense company, in January 2021 as an electrical engineer. I'm currently working at their Andover, Massachusetts site in the area of computer chip manufacturing for radar systems.*

*I've always wanted to go to graduate school but decided to wait until COVID-19 retreated enough to minimize the online classes. After anxiously waiting to hear back on my applications, I'm very excited to share that I've been accepted into the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science PhD program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to begin in fall 2022. I plan to study and research in the area*

*of machine learning for semiconductor manufacturing at MIT. Thank you again for the support your scholarship gave me and I hope that you feel your support was well-placed.*



## BOOK SALE NEWS

By the time you read this, we'll be smack dab in the middle of our fall book sale. I'm sure that it's flourishing as usual! Why? Because of the generosity of others.

### Huge Thank You to:

1. Sequoia Mall and Paynter Realty for providing our venue for over 20 years, including lighting, A/C, tables with skirts, security, and ample space, **FOR FREE!**
2. Sequoia Orange for the use of 1 1/2 warehouse bays for storing and sorting our 1000s of books, **FOR FREE!**
3. Mark Thompson of Books for Prisons for

finding homes for our discards, carting them away from both Exeter and the mall on clean-up day, **FOR FREE!**

4. COS athletic department and Brent Davis for supplying the athletes who load our truck and the Bixlers' trailer on set-up day!
5. Redwood HS, Jacob Avila, and the FBLA students who move the books onto the mall tables on set-up day!
6. Lifestyles for permitting our giant book bin to crowd their lobby, **FOR FREE!**
7. Hobby Lobby for sharing their carts with our sale, **FOR FREE!**
8. R&N Market and Christine Wong for supplying hundreds of boxes straight to the Exeter warehouse, **FOR FREE!**
9. Countless community members who do-

nate their libraries to us, **FOR FREE!**

10. Countless community members who shop at our sale to build **their** libraries!
  11. Our very own Visalia-Sequoia branch members who hold office, work shifts, create and display signs, hang fliers, sort books, offer trucks & trailers, do publicity, pick up at Lifestyles weekly, and who love lifting literacy for all!
- TUNE IN NEXT MONTH FOR HOW WE FARED!**

Susan Cunningham, Book Sale Chair

## AAUW Fall Kickoff meeting



Marilyn Rankin receives her presidents pin from successor Susan Cunningham

On Thursday, September 15, we gathered at the Lamp Litter for lunch and an informative talk by Dr. Brent Calvin, COS President. He updated the group on programs and activities at COS. He also spoke on the upcoming Measure C and its importance for COS. If passed, Measure C will bring a 4-year university to Tulare County, one of the few California counties without one. Look for lots of changes to the Visalia campus with the passage of Measure C. See you next month!

Jan Johnson, Program Committee Member



**V i s a l i a - S e q u o i a   A A U W**

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We're on the web!  
[Visaliasequoia-ca.aauw.net](http://Visaliasequoia-ca.aauw.net)

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## AAUW SUNSHINE

Every so often, we hear of a friend who is ill, has had surgery or has suffered a loss of a loved one. AAUW would like to acknowledge those times by sending a card to that member.

If you know of someone who needs a lift, please contact me. I would rather get several calls about the same person than no calls and someone gets overlooked.

Renella Smith, Sunshine Chair



## COFFEE & CAL. CONCERNS

Are you interested in joining Coffee and California Concerns section? The kickoff meeting for the year will be on Wednesday, October 19 @ 10:00 a.m. at 210 Cafe. The session will be focused on the California ballot propositions. There is no charge for use of the room, but we ask that participants buy a coffee, tea, etc. or make a small donation. **Please note** the day change from previous years. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ann Lawrence or Jill Rojas.

Will be changing to third Monday from Noon to 2pm. **After this first meeting**

Jill Rojas, C&CC Chair



# Public Policy

By: Terry Cornelius

The AAUW California Public Policy (PP) Committee is meeting with branch chairs on a bimonthly basis—something new this year. The first meeting was held on September 7. There were three main areas of focus: legislative agenda, voter participation, and “What’s next?”

## California Legislative Agenda

The committee reviewed bills supported by AAUW this past legislative session. Of the 35 bills supported, all but 8 were passed by the legislature. Some have been signed by the Governor. One went to the ballot. We are tracking the results of others. You can follow this on the PP website: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy/> .

The PP Committee asked each branch to send a letter to the Governor in support of AB-92, the Affordable Child Care Family Fees Act. Our Board voted to do that. Excerpts from that letter that explains why AAUW supports it:

“Our mission is to advance equity for women and girls. .... At AAUW California, we know that good, affordable child care creates stability and opens opportunities not only for women, but for children, families, and communities. That is why we are a proud co-sponsor of AB-92....

The bill financially liberates families with low incomes by ensuring that no family earning below 75 percent of State Median Income pays family fees, and that family fees do not exceed one percent of a family’s monthly income.... An equitable family fee schedule will bring continued relief to parents while ensuring child care providers are paid-in-full.”

## Voter Education and Participation

The PP Committee requested that each branch participate in voter education in preparation for the upcoming November election. As was announced at the September meeting, our Branch is a member of the Coalition that will be holding a “What’s on Your Ballot” public forum (see details...) on the evening of **October 11, 7:00pm**. This will focus on the **Propositions, Measure C**, and other relevant information. Be sure to attend this event in person at 210 (downtown Visalia) or streamed on the *Visalia Times-Delta* website, FaceBook Page and YouTube.

There will also be a Candidates Forum for **Visalia City Council** on **October 5 7:00pm**. This event is online only, also via the *Visalia Times-Delta* website, FaceBook Page and YouTube.

On **October 4, 5:00pm**, the Visalia Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Candidates Forum for **V.U.S.D. School Board**, also at 210. This is a ticketed event. Tickets are free, but must be ordered online. To find out how to do this, call the Chamber at 734-5876.

## The Future and Your Input

Lastly the State PP Committee will be doing a survey in November to help determine the Public Policy priorities for 2023-2025. Keep an eye out for that!

A great site for election info:

**VotersEdge.org**



... Especially to “follow the money”  
— Major donors are listed.

This site is a non-partisan project of the  
League of Women Voters.



Expect your ballots to arrive around  
**October 3.**

**THREE EVENTS TO CONSIDER:**

**Oct. 4** — V.U.S.D. School Board

**Oct. 5** — Visalia City Council

**Oct. 11** — “What’s on Your Ballot?  
Navigating the Propositions”

*(See above article for details.)*