

The Sequoia Newsletter

Visalia - Sequoia AAUW

CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER



No one who achieves success does so without the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude. - Alfred North Whitehead

So, with gratitude we thank all of you who helped make our book sale a success! Minus expenses we made about \$15,000. Could not have done it without all who helped sort (AAUW volunteers), Coordinators Sandy Parmelly and Susan Cunningham, storing books between Book sales- Jamie Wilson, Sequoia Orange, book collection box- Lifestyle, storage boxes- R & N Market and Chris Wong, signs-Suzanne Babcock, advertising- Allison Babcock, COS athletics Brent Davis (cheerleaders, dance, and volley-

ball players, yes, all young women!) helped pack the truck and Carol and David Bixler's trailer, Maile -drove the truck, space to sell books, table set up and security- Sequoia mall and Paynter Realty, unloading the truck and placing books in correct genre areas- Redwood High Jacob Avila and Future Business Leaders of America, carts- Hobby Lobby, cash delivery and pick up daily - Marsh Brooks-Smith, and of course all of our AAUW volunteers who came to sell the books. With all that it takes to get the Book sale up and running, it went very smoothly.

And now we're in search of a possible new venue for our next Book Sale.

We have formed a committee for this search; Lisa Silva, Sandy

Parmelly, Susan Cunningham, Nancy Holmes, and Maile Melkonian. We want to move the paradigm and are thinking of other ways to make money with the books we receive weekly, as well. Any ideas!? We would be glad to take them into consideration! Let one of us know.

Our October speaker: Master Gardener Cathy Ronk had a lot of really good ideas for helping our trees thrive and survive in this year's long drought we're living in at the moment. She had so much information and so little time! A big thanks to Susan Franciskovich for arranging to have Cathy speak to our AAUW group at U.C. Extension's beautiful Tulare facility! Susan also provided delicious cookies and

water for all who attended!

Also, at the October branch meeting the attending members passed the 2022-23 budget.

What's next? Expanding Your Horizons will be held at T.C.O.E. on November 5th. Elections are on November 8th, so please remember to vote! The November branch meeting will be at The Lamp Liter Inn and speaking will be author Christina Lynch, inspiring all of us with her views on the power of literature.

Hope to see all of you at our November 17 meeting!

Co-Presidents Lisa Silva and Maile Melkonian

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

November 17, 2022 (Thursday). 11:30-1:00 PM

Location: Lamp Liter Inn, 300 W. Mineral King Ave.

Program: "Perspectives on Writing, Teaching, And the Importance of Literature In our Lives"

Presenter: Christina Lynch, published author, tv scriptwriter, teacher at College of the Sequoias

Christina Lynch is a multifaceted woman whose journey in authorship includes being the editor of the Harvard Lampoon, two fash-

ion magazines, and three published novels: "City of Dark Magic", City of Lost Dreams" (Penguin publishers) both set in Prague, which are written under the penname of Magnus Flyte, and her solo novel; "The Italian Party". Her newest book, forthcoming in June, 2023, is entitled "Sally Brady's Italian Adventure". She is an English instructor at the College of the Sequoias, and is very interested in increasing literacy. We hope you come and hear about her life's story in writing, as well as her perspectives on the power of literature in our lives. She is sure to engage you.

Menu: Soup, salad, with potato bar and toppings.

Cost: \$20.00 payable at the meeting

Reservation Deadline: Sunday, November 13 to Sherri Bentley 625-2448

Sherri Bentley,
Program Committee Member

BOARD MEETING

Monday, Nov. 14

2:30 p.m.

At B'nai David



GREAT DECISIONS

Maile Melkonian, Co-Chair

Time to Order Your Books!

It's that time of the year again—your chance to receive a 32% discount on the Briefing Books that inform our foreign policy discussions, and provide the point of departure for each of the eight topics we'll be highlighting this coming spring. If you are interested in international relations, this section is for you!

We expect to start on January 31, and meet, as usual, every other Tuesday evening (7-9:00pm) till early May. We hope to continue our partnership with C.O.S., and meet on campus—our first in-person sessions since the pandemic

drove us to Zoom in 2020. We are also looking into the feasibility of hybrid options.

The Foreign Policy Association has, once again, identified eight super-timely topics:

- Energy Geopolitics
- War Crimes
- China & the U.S.
- Economic Warfare
- Politics in Latin American
- Global Famine
- Iran at a Crossroads
- Climate Migration

To order Briefing Books, contact

Doug Dethlefs:
infofruit@yahoo.com
(559) 967-5672

or just send a check, made out to him, to:

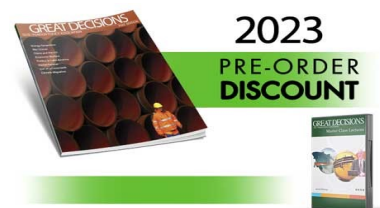
3504 W. Sunnyview Ave.
Visalia, CA 93291

The discounted price is \$31, and is available as long as supplies last. Of course, Books are published as late in the year as possible, to ensure current information and analysis. We expect to receive them in early January, and will notify subscribers when they are available for pick-up at

the Public Library, downtown Visalia.

Hope you'll join us!

Section Co-Chairs:
Doug Dethlefs
Pat Foster
Maile Melkonian



Coffee and California Concerns

Join us: Wednesday, November 9
10-12 am
Cafe 210, 210 W. Center St.

We will be discussing climate change and YOU. Have growing concerns about climate change affected how you live your life? Have you made any changes? If so, we want to talk about them. Join us.

Our day and time have changed. Get us on your calendar for the second Wednesday of every month from 10-12 am. Our meeting place is Cafe 210 in the conference room.

Mary Ann Lawrence, Section Chair



BOOK SALE REPORT

Thanks to scores of volunteers, we have completed another successful AAUW book sale! We garnered \$16,745.85 in proceeds! Our customers seemed content with our \$1, 2, 3 pricing and with the ever-popular bag day sale. Take a look at some photos to document the sale.

Susan Cunningham, Book Sale Chair

Travelling Troopers

Travelling Troupers Invitation To Interested AAUW members

Travelling Troupers has been a fun interest group in the past for Visalia AAUW members, and we are trying to resurrect it this year. Our first idea for a trip in early December is to San Francisco for a visit to the DeYoung exhibition of King Ramses. Our idea is to go up by train (9:34 from Hanford arriving in San Francisco at 2:50- cost one way \$31 senior rate,, returning the next day on the afternoon train). The trip could either be Thursday-Friday Dec. 1 and 2nd, or the next week on Wednesday Dec. 7 -8. Senior rates for the exhibit are \$32 for seniors. We would stay overnight at a downtown hotel, either at the Beresford Arms (where we have stayed before cost \$129 for two beds, or at the Handlery in Union Square for \$169 for two beds (on expedia). We thought the first day (afternoon or evening) might be open ended for attending either the Dick-

ens Village at the CowPalace, or possibly a play, or shopping. The DeYoung visit could be at (9:30 or 9:45) giving us time to see it and get on the train afterwards. Think about it and call either Sherri Bentley at 288-5429, or Nancy Scott at 901-0675. We should probably line up reservations soon, so call soon.

Sherri Bentley, Section Chair



PUBLIC POLICY

Terry Cornelius, Public Policy Chair

Local Voter Information Forum

On October 11, AAUW collaborated with the League of Women Voters, Visalia Times Delta, and other partners to sponsor a voter information forum. It began with a focus on each of the 7 Propositions which included the purpose of the proposition, supporters and opponents, and financial contributions to support or oppose it. A brief Q/A session was held after each so participants could get clarifications.

That was followed by a discussion of Measure C to expand the COS University Center. The evening wrapped up with a demonstration of **Voters Edge California** - sponsored by LWV California and Maplight. It provides in-depth ballot information including the money behind participating candidates and propositions. <https://votersedge.org/ca>

AAUW CA Public Policy

AB 92 Co-sponsored by AAUW CA

Governor Newsom vetoed AB 92 in a letter that included these remarks;

"The author's advocacy for California's working families is commendable. Like the author, expanding access to high quality early learning and care programs for babies and toddlers is a priority of my Administration. That's why the 2022 Budget Act included significant investments in preschool and childcare including family fee waivers for the 2022-23 fiscal year, an income threshold increases for the State preschool program from 85 percent to 100 percent of state median income, and funding to allow providers to stay open even if enrollment is down due to COVID-19."

AAUW CA Public Policy Chair Recaps a Successful Year

I'm excited to announce that 25 of our 36 bills for this year are now law – a 70% success rate! Of our six high-priority bills, five have become law. Here is a quick summary:

Economic Security bills

9 signed by Governor

Equal Access to Education bills

6 signed by Governor

1 approved (no signature required)

Social and Racial Justice bills

7 signed by Governor

1 approved (no signature required)

1 incorporated into

Executive Order

Click [HERE](#) for a summary of each bill and its status. It can be found on the Public Policy webpage under "Legislative Advocacy."



MISSION AND ACTION—WHAT'S AT STAKE ON NOV. 8

By Gloria L. Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer

I was so inspired by my recent conversation with Dr. Keisha N. Blain, AAUW 2016-17 American Fellow and award-winning historian, professor and author. She shared her insight on her most recent book, *Until I am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer's Enduring Message to America*. Look for the recording to be posted soon on our website.

Hamer was an outspoken activist in the 1960s for civil rights and voting rights—issues that remain

startlingly relevant. As midterm elections loom, I'm trying to remain optimistic that the results will elevate the equity priorities AAUW fights for every day. For that to happen, women must not only turn out to the polls; they must take the time to fully understand the issues.

Because, with so much at stake—whether it's reproductive rights, student loan debt or workplace discrimination—it's not an exaggeration to say our very lives may depend on the outcome.

The good news is we have the power to drive change. Women vote in greater numbers than men and determine the outcomes in race after race.

So step up. AAUW's Action Fund offers all the resources you need to make informed decisions.

Please spend some time on their website. **Together, we'll create a better future for women and girls on November 8.**

The Book Sale Committee needs your ideas!

We are starting to look for **possible new venues** for the sale, as well as new and innovating ways we can make money with our donated books!

Let one of the committee members know your ideas!

AAUW We Need Your Help!!!!

We need your help!

There is a possibility that we will not be able to use the Sequoia Mall anymore for our book sale. We have assembled a committee to start looking at new options that are out there.

This is where you come in!

If you know of a location that might work for our future book sales please contact a committee member so that the committee can look into it. Committee members are: Lisa Silva, Sandy Parmelly, Susan Cunningham, Nancy Holmes, and Maile Melkonian.

Thank you for your help!

By Lisa Silva / Allison Babcock

Visalia - Sequoia AAUW

P.O. Box 6
Visalia, CA 93279

Email: visalia.sequoia.aauw@gmail.com

We're on the web!

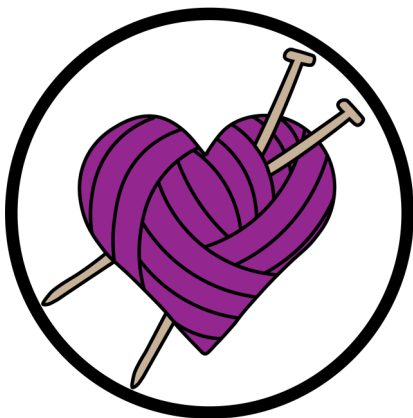
Visaliasequoia-ca.aauw.net

Knit Wits

Knit Wits Meeting Change

Anyone interested in the fiber arts, please join our group. We meet weekly on Tuesdays from 10-noon. Our meeting place has changed to the 210 Cafe located at 210 Center Street downtown. Beginners and experts alike are welcome. Please call Cathy Lovell for more information.

Cathy Lovell, Section Chair



TECH PEER GROUP

This past week I had the privilege of joining an AAUW state tech peer group. In this group we will have experts come in to talk on different tech topics to help us learn new items and techniques that we can bring back to our branches. All branches in California received an invite to participate, and we had an amazing turn out at our first meeting. To the first meeting, we had over 55 people in the zoom meeting. We talked about different topics that the participants wanted to cover. We are planning to meet once a month and cover a new topic each time. I will keep you updated on different things that are learned to help our branch.

Allison Babcock, Communication Chair

