

# The Sequoia Newsletter

Visalia-Sequoia AAUW

## CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER

*"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."* - Coretta Scott King

Visalia-Sequoia AAUW once again outdid ourselves with donated gifts and prizes for the silent auction and raffle for our annual Holiday Tea. A big thank you goes to Susan Cunningham for opening up her beautiful home for all of us to gather and enjoy each other's company. Also thank you to the past presidents who poured tea. Because of all the great donated gifts and the generosity of our members our branch made

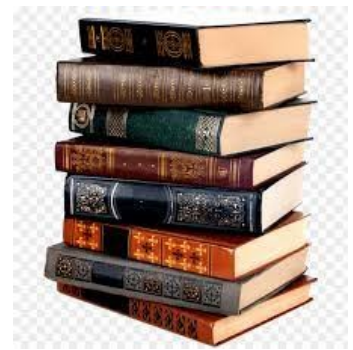
\$945! We also received 4 boxes of donated books and \$160 to help stock the Little Free Library stand(s). Keeping with our president's theme of Lifting Local Literacy.

Where did 2022 go? Hello 2023! As we look forward to a new year, the scholarship committee will begin screening candidates soon. Our treasurer submitted the funds to C.O.S. for the scholarships, in December. The honored member committee will be formed soon to select a deserving member. The Book Sale Venue committee is still working on possible sites and still accepting ideas on ways to make money with the books we have in storage. We will also be inviting

members to sit in on the nominating committee to fill our branch officers for next year, be on the lookout! Ally Babcock has gotten our branch Facebook page up and running, as well as a Master Calendar for all our branch activities! Please let her know events and times for your committee business and section activities. All this constitutes the "compassionate actions" of our members in progress!

The next branch meeting is on January 19 at 210 Café with Kirk Shrum, new V.U.S.D. Superintendent. Hope to see you all there!

— Lisa Silva & Maile Melkonian



**BOARD MEETING**  
Tuesday, Jan. 17  
2:30 p.m. (back to usual time)  
At the home of Nancy Holmes

## DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

### January General AAUW Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023

Time: 12:00-2:00 (**Time Change**)

Location: 210 Café, 210 W. Center Ave.

Program: "The ABC's of V.U.S.D."

Presenter: Kirk Shrum, new V.U.S.D. Superintendent

Menu: sandwiches, two sides, salad, beverage, and dessert

Cost: \$20 At the event

Reservations made to: Sherri Bentley, 288 5429, home, 625-2448 by **January 16**.

We hope to hear from our brand new superintendent of Visalia Unified School District, about his background, how he assesses the district's strengths and challenges, and his plans for moving forward. Hope you can attend to hear this important information about the educational system in Visalia.

Sherri Bentley, Program Member



# HOLIDAY TEA REFLECTIONS

— Maile Melkonian

(Photos: Betsy Gaudette-Cross and Lisa Silva)

Our Branch tradition, the Holiday Tea, gives members a welcome chance to socialize. Thanks to hostess Susan Cunningham, Hospitality Chair Marsha Brooks-Smith and Honored Member Fund V.P. Nancy Holmes, the lovely December 10 event was quite festive. This is Nancy's main fundraiser, and members came through with a record \$945 for this year's awards! Donations to the Co-Presidents' designated charity, Little Free Libraries, included a collection of wonderful children's books and \$160. Co-President Elect Linda Tucker [below left] arranged for past presidents, including Nancy A. and Carol F. [below center], to do the pouring, while attendees such as Mercia M., Carol S. and Bonnie T. [below right] checked out the goodies. What a great way to celebrate the season!



The raffle and silent auction were a huge success, thanks to Nancy H. and hostess Susan C., [below] who organized it. Of course, donors and ticket holders, like Cathy L. [left], helped a lot!



[above] Carol D. and Maile enjoyed the party, as Hospitality Chair Marsha B.-S. (center) tried to avoid the camera. Her efforts made the refreshments all happen!







Among the merry-makers were [above] Carol S., Rosemary J. and Susan F., who enjoyed catching up. [left] Marti F. invited a young guest who got to get a sense of what A.A.U.W. is all about.



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## Visalia - Sequoia AAUW

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We're on the web!

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## Travelling Troopers

The five members who were finally able to go on the trip to San Francisco on December 1-2 had a delightful time. We were thoroughly impressed and educated by the very colorful and entertaining exhibit of King Ramses reign in Egypt held at the DeYoung Museum. Seeing all the Christmas lights and decorations was an additional delight. In addition, we were entranced by attending a performance of "Ain't Too Proud to Beg, The Life and Times of the Temptations" at Golden Gate Theater. That was a spectacular concert in effect- we all loved the music and singing of this group from our past! So, the question is—now where should we go??? We invite your input and participation, just contact Sherri Bentley or Nancy Scott if you have ideas.

— Sherri Bentley, Section Chair



## UNABRIDGED BOOK GROUP

The Unabridged Book Group enjoyed a festive Christmas celebration. We had a fun book exchange, great food and plenty of lovely holiday cheer.

Susan Franciskovich, Section Chair

