

The Grapevine

December 2018

Volume 34, Number 4



**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE
& ENRICHING THOUGHT**
Winter 2019 Courses – Registration begins November 26

January approaches and with it a new offering from FORUM! Chris O'Sullivan is back with an extremely provocative course title: "America's Worst Presidents." You'll have to enroll to find out which ones they are. And in keeping with a political theme, Larry Eilenberg will present "American Politics in the Movies." Join us at the Raven Performing Arts Theater.



Beginning with our original FORUM classes, Chris O'Sullivan has taken us on many historical journeys, whether on the national level, the State, and even our own beloved Sonoma County. This time, he goes deeply into the psyche of some of our most famous (or should I say, *infamous*?) national characters. And I do mean characters! While we may not all agree on the performance of any given U.S. President, there is no doubt that some were just not up to the job. Don't miss Chris' irreverent perspective on these men who served (or *disserved*?) our nation.



I adore movies, and I bet most of you do too. And although many of us might feel like we've had politics up to HERE, we remain interested in, and intrigued by, the foibles and shenanigans of the practitioners. Larry Eilenberg will walk us through some of the Hollywood classics (Mr. Smith anyone?) as well as a few you might have missed. You'll know some, if not all, of these: All the King's Men, The President's Men, Nixon, Milk, Lincoln, Bulworth, Dave, Advise and Consent, In the Loop—just to name a few.

Classes begin on Tuesday January 8 and Thursday January 10, respectively. All classes are from 10:00 AM to 11:45 AM. Registration began on November 26 at www.healdsburg-ca.aauw.net and the cost for each six-week course is \$95 (non-refundable and non-transferrable). Classes are held at Raven Performing Arts Theater, 115 North Street, Healdsburg.

—Sharyn Sarquis



President's Message

Voter turnout for this year's midterm election was the greatest since 1914! (Wouldn't it be great if there was a turnout like this every time?) People were engaged and a lot of those people were women. Amy Klobuchar, United States Senator from Minnesota, recently stated on "The View" - "Let's not talk about what men have done; let's talk about what women can do!" I grabbed this quote from the CA AAUW website. Given the large number of women elected into state and federal government positions, I think it captures the spirit of this past election. While women make up over 50% of the population, they only represent 23% of the congressional delegates. There is still a long way to go before women are fully represented at every level of government, but this election was a great start.

If you've been poking around on the website lately you may have noticed a few changes. Mission Based Projects, Scholarships and Grants, and Fundraising have been consolidated under COMMUNITY SERVICES and Interest Groups has moved under MEMBERSHIP.

The Board has rounded out the Strategic Goals for the year with a set of action items. It's posted on the website under ABOUT (Governance.) Also, last year's highlights are now posted. You'll find the posting under ABOUT (History.)

As I continue to look at these smoky skies, I am reminded, as we all are, of what happened here last year. It is hard to comprehend that the State is going through this again. I hope that any family and friends you may have in Butte County or Southern California are all safe.

Have you renewed your membership? Remember, if you haven't renewed by November 30th, your membership will expire and you will fall off all distribution lists—including Interest Groups. The School Supplies Holiday Drive will be here soon. Don't forget to throw a few extra items for the school into your shopping cart.

See you at the Holiday Party on December 9th!

—Nancy Haiston

Public Policy Activities

2019-21 AAUW Public Policy Priorities

Every two years, AAUW members vote on revisions to our Public Policy Priorities, both at the State and National level. For AAUW California, a survey was sent to all California members on November 16 to solicit feedback on the draft California Public Policy Priorities for 2019-21. These support our mission and form the basis for State action and advocacy. Responses to the survey are due December 10. And your input is encouraged. The final Public Policy Priorities will be voted on by the membership in the spring of 2019.

The National Public Policy Priorities establish our organization's federal action priorities, as well as guidelines for state and local action. The AAUW Public Policy Committee (APPC) has recommended changes in the Public Policy Priorities that align with the Strategic Plan, streamline or correct the Public Policy Priorities, or respond to member leader or AAPC input and clarify or detail our support for specific issues. Through January 11, 2019, you can comment in support of these updates or suggest changes to the Public Policy Priorities that you'd like to see on the ballot in the AAUW national election in the spring. To comment, access the proposed Public Policy Priorities at www.aauw.org, review the comments that have already been posted and add your own thoughts to the dialog.

—Sue Campbell

Title IX at Risk

On November 16, the Department of Education proposed sweeping changes to Title IX's regulations, which would have significant implications for students' civil rights and for federal enforcement of the law. Simply put, the proposed rule would make schools less safe for students, making it more difficult for students to report incidents of sexual harassment and violence, and easier for schools to ignore them when they do. When students cannot stay in school because they experience sexual harassment and violence, their access to education is fundamentally unequal. Title IX protects ALL students from discrimination: students of all genders, from kindergarten through college.

There are few issues more central to AAUW's mission than Title IX and its promise of equity in education. Despite the progress we have made, it is the unfortunate truth that women and girls still do not have equal educational experiences or opportunities. The Department's actions amount to a real threat to progress, and it is critical that all AAUW advocates push back to stop these rules from being implemented.

What you can do:

- Go to aauw.org and sign AAUW's petition asking Secretary DeVos to withdraw the proposed regulations.
- Submit a Letter to the Editor of one of our local papers (Sonoma West or the Press Democrat) to help educate others in our community about what's at stake.
- Share AAUW's petition with friends, family and neighbors.

We have 60 days to weigh in with the Department of Education on their proposed changes. Now is the time to take action against these rollbacks to students' Title IX rights!

—Sue Campbell

Celebrating Our Success in the Mid-Term Elections

Women shattered historic glass ceilings in the 2018 mid-term elections, and we should all be proud of their, and our, success. Not only did a record number of women run for office, but a record number of those women will now serve. At least 102 women will be sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives and at least 23 women will serve in the U.S. Senate. Additionally, at least 9 women will lead their states as governors.

Across the country, long-held barriers were being broken. Nevada elected female majorities in their state legislature, state Supreme Court and federal delegation. The first two Native American women were elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in Kansas and New Mexico. The first Muslim women were elected to Congress in Minnesota and Michigan. New York elected the youngest woman to Congress. The first African American woman from Massachusetts was elected to Congress. The first two women were elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Iowa. Tennessee elected their first woman senator. Maine and South Dakota elected their first female governors, and a woman became New Mexico's first Latina governor.

These firsts are a reminder that while the number of women in elected positions has increased, we still have a long way to go. This progress is critical, but the work is far from over.

—Sue Campbell

MISSION-BASED PROGRAMS

Future Prep

The first Future Prep event for the current school year was held on Thursday, November 1, at 8 am at Healdsburg High School. Future Prep is a program that brings professionals from various careers to speak to high school students about the field. The focus this time was on the health care industry. Thirty students attended, most of whom are AP Biology students. There were eight panelists, three from Healdsburg Hospital and five from Alliance Medical Center. Our panelists were:

Dr. Brittany Gonzales - Dentist (Alliance)
Dr. Andrew Zwiers - Dentist (Alliance)
Dr. Stephen Rich - Physician/Internal Medicine (Alliance)
Gigi Leon - Physician's Assistant (Alliance)
Bridget Graydon - Radiologic Technician (Imaging Manager at Hospital)
Melanie Austin - Lab Technology (Lab Manager at Hospital)
Silvia Rodriguez - Lead Pharmacy Tech (Hospital)
Natasha Sill - Certified Nurse Practitioner (Alliance)

The event was an hour and 40 minutes long—a block period. Panelists were stationed at tables while students moved every ten minutes from table to table, where they had an opportunity to discuss career specifics, ask questions about education/training and salary, as well as hear about the daily work life of the panelists. The panelists thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and feedback from the students was positive—even from those not really interested in a career in health care! The next event is tentatively scheduled for Feb 25 with a focus on computers and technology. Congratulations to **Kim Jensen**, our Future Prep coordinator, on a job well done!

—Beth Wolk

Holiday School Supplies

We hope that you are planning on attending the *AAUW Holiday party on December 9th*. And please remember.....

One of the many helpful things our Branch does is provide much-needed supplies to the local elementary schools who participate in Reading Rocks: Healdsburg Elementary School, Fitch Mountain Campus, and West Side School. The staff at each of these schools are excited and grateful, looking forward to this annual holiday donation. I think most of us have fun shopping for these items, knowing how much they will be appreciated by teachers and students.

Ticonderoga Pencils #2

Colored Pencils

Expo Dry-Erase Markers (thick and thin) -- all colors

Crayola markers (thick and thin)

Paper Mate Flair Felt Tip Pens (medium) -- black and green

Construction Paper -- 12x18 and 8.5x11

Graph Paper

Dry Board Erasers

Sidewalk Chalk

Post-Its -- variety of sizes

Index Cards

Gallon Freezer Bags

Baby Wipes

Glue Sticks

Face Paints

Stickers

Little Items for Treasure Chest, e.g., fun pencils, erasers

Craft Materials: scissors, pipe cleaners, bright colored ribbon, wide popsicle sticks, silver and gold glitter, k-molding clay

Please bring your new and unwrapped donations to the holiday party. Please put donated items in cartons or bags suitable for AAUW members to carry and use to store items.

If you won't be attending the party or would prefer, please call the following members and arrange to drop off your donations at their homes no later than December 7th.

Cloverdale: **Diane Bartleson**

Healdsburg/Geyserville: **Barbara Epstein**

Windsor: **Linda Clark**.

Thank you for your generosity!

—Barbara Epstein

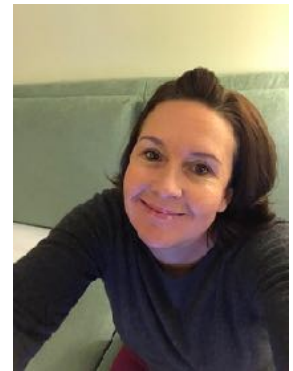


AAUW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

With this issue the Grapevine is launching a new “Spotlight” series to recognize AAUW members who are taking on important jobs to further our mission and continue the successes of our branch.

Kim Jensen

It is only a couple of years since **Kim Jensen** joined AAUW but she has already immersed herself in a demanding—if rewarding—volunteer assignment. She is coordinating the Branch's Future Prep program at Healdsburg High School. The program, which took a hiatus last year in the wake of the fires and personnel changes at the high school, is up and running again this year. The signature activity of Future Prep is the Career Choice roundtables, which give students in all grades at the high school the opportunity to meet in small groups with representatives of different careers. The initial roundtable this year took place on November 1st and focused on health care careers. As coordinator, **Kim's** job is to work with the high school staff liaison, Shelley Anderson, to plan the events, recruit the career representatives, prepare supporting materials, and manage implementation of the roundtables. It's a big job but the end result is worth the effort from **Kim's** point of view: “Inspiring students to start building a vision of their future is really what it’s all about.”



—Katherine Lacy

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The social activities for the late summer and fall are in full swing, with the calendar already filled with many successful events. It all began with our Kick Off in September, followed by a Happy Hour, Lunch Bunch, a Cultural Event, and a Wine and Dine. Looking towards the end of the year, we are looking forward to a Lunch Bunch planned for December 5th at Guiso's, and the Holiday Party for December 9th--same location as last year, the Lutheran Church. (Firm deadline, with payment: Nov. 30th)

Because of all the planning and hard work that goes into these wonderful events, the Social Activities Committee is asking all AAUW Healdsburg members to do us a favor: **Please RSVP!**

Certain events **mandate an RSVP**: Kick-off, Holiday Party, Lunch Bunch, cultural events, Installation Lunch. These events have a mandatory sign-in and we will check the RSVP list. We need an accurate head count: we rent glasses, linens, chairs, and pay outside vendors, etc. When more people show up than we counted on, it is difficult for everyone.

If you RSVP with a “yes” and then need to cancel, please do so ASAP by emailing or texting the event coordinator. In this way we can update our list and perhaps slot in another member who is on the wait list for certain events. We really need to know who is coming. If an event requires payment and you cancel, and if we cannot fill the spot, we will not be able to refund your money.



A big thank you to the committee—Violet, Carol, Neita, Tanya, Laura, Hallie, Janet—for their ongoing hard work.

—Kathryn Henderson

Our Second Wine and Dine is Coming Jan 25

Our popular Wine-N-Dine event will be coming up again on Friday Jan. 25. These dinners, held simultaneously at various member homes, are great ways to meet new people in the AAUW. All are welcome either as a couple or a single. Because there are anywhere from 6 to 10 people at each dinner party, it is easy to talk with everyone and get to know them better, while enjoying great food and wine!

An email blast will go out on Dec 27 asking for volunteers to host the Jan. 25 event. Once we line up hosts, we will send out an email on Jan. 8 asking if you would like to attend as a guest. Please be on the lookout for these two emails if you would like to take part as either host or attendee.

Many of you know the “rules” for hosting a Wine-N-Dine event, however for our new members and for those who need a reminder, here are the guidelines.

The host is responsible for:

Choosing the arrival time, setting the menu (may be a theme if you like), setting the table, and asking the attendees to bring a course for the meal. Usually the host supplies the main course, however may choose any course. The host then asks the members of the group to each bring one of the additional dinner courses. (The courses usually included are an appetizer, a salad, a main dish, a side dish, and a dessert.) This may be modified depending on the number of attendees.

Two singles may be asked to share a course, or each could supply one, depending on what is needed. Each “couple” should bring a bottle of wine or a beverage of their choice. During the evening, some hosts choose to let the conversation flow. Others ask attendees to share a little about themselves. The hosts are free to organize the evening as they choose.

We hope you will attend one or all of these fun, intimate dinner parties!

—Laura Kramer and Tanya Enders Beach

MEMBERSHIP

Obituary: Helle Kierkegaard Siegert

Helle, a longtime member of AAUW, passed away on October 14th. **Helle** lived a fascinating life. She was born in Denmark in 1945 and moved to California in 1964 to work as an au pair. After marrying Werner in 1968 and getting her degree, **Helle**, her husband, and daughters lived in Los Altos, CA; Quito, Ecuador; Texas; and Singapore before retiring to Healdsburg to build their dream home and vineyard.

Helle was in the Tuesday Great Decisions discussion group. Her world experience explains the informative contributions that she made to the topic at hand. We definitely missed her lively input when she had to drop out. She was also a member of the First Thursday book group.

Married to Werner since 1968, **Helle** was the mother of three daughters and five grandchildren. **Helle** always made everyone feel welcome in her home. We will miss her presence not only in Great Decisions and the book group, but in the Branch as well.

–Nancy Haiston

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

Gloria Kaiser



Living in Mill Valley where they raised their two children, **Gloria** and her husband Tom fell in love with the Dry Creek Valley some 20 years ago. They found their home off of West Dry Creek Road in 2001. For almost ten years they settled for spending weekends in their dream home, but **Gloria** finally decided she wanted to be here full-time. She moved in 2008 while her husband (who still worked in San Francisco) continued to live in Mill Valley during the week, spending long weekends here.

Gloria immediately set out to build her garden, transforming bare hillsides into vineyards, fruit trees and flowers. In addition, she built a little studio where she could pursue her various artistic endeavors. An MFA graduate from the University of Wisconsin, **Gloria** had long practiced many different art forms, including painting, sculpting, ceramics, weaving, jewelry making and stained glass. Currently, she is primarily focused on her ceramics.

Although she has lived in Healdsburg for many years, **Gloria** joined AAUW for two purposes: to meet new and interesting women and to find a place to volunteer her considerable talents.

–Hillary Kambour

The Grapevine is published online each month, except in July and August. Please submit articles and announcements in WORD or PAGES and photographs in Jpeg by the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which you want them included. Send to kk.lacy@gmail.com.