

The Grapevine

September 2019

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BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & ENRICHING THOUGHT

Fall 2019 Courses – Registration begins September 1

Now that summer is over, we may all be in the mood for mental stimulation and learning fascinating truths about the world we live in. Beginning next month, FORUM returns with two outstanding speakers. The first, Bruce Elliott—a longtime crowd favorite—will guide us through the many British revolutions, from the Reformation to modern day Brexit. And a newcomer with impeccable credentials, Anastasia Edel, will teach from her deep understanding of Russia, a country much on our minds lately.



BRITISH REVOLUTIONS: From the English Reformation to Brexit Bruce Elliott teaches courses in cultural history for lifelong-learning programs at Stanford, UC Berkeley, Sonoma State, and Dominican University. While his courses range broadly across European history, British Studies represents a particular enthusiasm, as this was the field in which Elliott conducted his doctoral research. Along with his academic teaching, in summertime Bruce leads travel-study trips to legendary destinations. He received his Ph.D. in European History from UC Berkeley. Most FORUM members will recognize Bruce as the man with the sizeable closet who chooses to dress the part of the historical figures he talks about.



UNDERSTANDING RUSSIA: Politics, History, and Culture Anastasia Edel grew up in southern Russia during the last years of the Soviet Union. She graduated with a degree in English and German studies from Kubansky State University and worked as a fiction translator. A recipient of the British Government Chevening Award, she moved to the US, earning her MFA in Writing from Pacific University. She's the author of *Russia: Putin's Playground* (Callisto Media, 2016). Her prose has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Review of Books*, *Project Syndicate Quartz*, and *World Literature Today*. She lives in San Francisco and teaches Russian culture and history at UC Berkeley Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Classes are held at the Raven Theater, 115 North Street, Healdsburg. Enrollment fees are \$95 for the six-week course (nonrefundable). Registration forms can be found at www.healdsburg-ca.aauw.net

President's Message



I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and is now charged up to continue supporting our programs and fundraisers. Please join us at the Kick-Off meeting on September 17 to learn about the variety of ways you can be involved. The event is at 3905 Lambert Bridge Road from 5:30-7:30 pm.

I was fortunate to be one of 30 AAUW leaders from the North Bay to hear from and have lunch with the dynamic AAUW CEO, **Kim Churches**. The event was hosted by an AAUW board member from Tiburon. Kim inspired us with the achievements and 2019-2020 goals of the organization. I will be discussing each of the three goals in future Grapevines. All members are encouraged to attend the CA convention April 17-19, 2020, at the Airport Westin in Millbrae. The national convention was canceled, so the state convention is a chance to celebrate 100 years since women won the right to vote. There will be funds available to cover costs.

On a personal note, I am grateful for all the thoughts, emails and cards of condolence that were sent when my Mom died. That emphasized to me the importance of the support within this AAUW community. You are so kind and compassionate. Thank you.

—Linda Clark

PUBLIC POLICY

Below is a letter of thanks from Danell Braun, who attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders with support from the Healdsburg and Santa Rosa branches of AAUW.

Dear Santa Rosa and Healdsburg branches,

Thank you so much for giving me the amazing opportunity to be able to attend NCCWSL. It was my first time traveling completely alone, and it was all the way across the country. I was able to meet so many amazing women. I met college women from all across the country and feel lucky I got to know them well enough to call them my friends now. The women speakers and the Women of Distinction honorees were absolutely wonderful. I got the amazing chance to meet Ashley Nell Tipton and Lauren Simmons, a size-inclusive fashion designer and the only woman equity trader on the New York Stock Exchange floor. I also got to see the documentary “RBG” and was absolutely blown away by how much Ruth Bader Ginsberg has done as far as women’s rights goes. She inspires me to work hard and not let any man tell me I am not as able to do something solely because I’m a woman. I think that college girls should go next summer because it is an amazing experience they will never forget. I got to see Washington DC for the first time ever and was left speechless. It didn’t even feel real seeing so many things in real life that I had only seen in movies. Thank you all again for giving me this amazing opportunity. It was an experience I will cherish forever and will never forget.

Respectfully,
Danell Braun
Intern
AAUW - Santa Rosa Branch

—Submitted by Sue Campbell

MY CONFESSION

Those of you who know me know that I am a pushy loud-mouth who rarely fails to speak her mind (whether you want to hear or not). So it is with a really red face that I admit I have failed to participate in the absolutely easiest way there is to sound off— the Two-Minute Activist.

The Two-Minute Activist is an easy and effective way of having your voice heard. This is an AAUW advocacy tool designed to make it simple for you to take action on issues impacting women and girls. Just sign up, and they will provide you with all the tools to send a ready-made message to Congress people, state legislators and/or newspaper editors. Tap a screen or two and Dianne Feinstein will hear you and even respond! And the messages come every few weeks, so if you miss one, don’t worry; you will soon have another opportunity to speak your mind to the powerful. Indeed, it takes less than two minutes to be an ACTIVIST for what you believe in.

Go to <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist-test> and sign up today. Don’t be like the OLD me—all talk and no action!

—Hillary Kambour

TECH TREK 2019



First Row, L to R: Gina Diaz Hernandez (CCLA), Stacy Solorio (HJH), Audrey Moberly (WMS), Aalyiah Calderon (CWMS), Victoria Martinez (CCLA) **Second Row, L to R:** Tylie Hatcher (CWMS), Alissa Sommer (HJH), Jennifer Osborne (GNTA), Maya Carmona (CCLA)

CCLA: Cali Calmecac Language Academy; HJH: Healdsburg Junior High School; WMS: Windsor Middle School; CWMS: Washington Middle School (Cloverdale); GNTA: Geyserville New Tech Academy

Trek and Beyond

This summer I had the eye-opening experience of being a dorm mom at Tech Trek Camp Curie, a week-long residential STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) camp for 78 Bay Area 8th grade girls at Stanford University. This innovative program exposes girls to professional and practical skills such as project management, team work, and money management. As these like-minded, enthusiastic Tech Trekkers live the life of college students—working, playing and living together in a college dorm—memories and friendships form that last well beyond camp. Tech Trek’s empowering exposure paves the way to careers in STEM and shapes future leaders. Moreover, all the women staffing the program—from teachers to counselors—provide role models who give the girls confidence in their abilities and inspire them to succeed and excel in their STEM pursuits.

While I’d been on our branch’s Tech Trek selection committee for five years, I admit to being a bit terrified prior to leaving for camp. Although I’d never experienced being the mother of a girl and had no idea how the camp operated, I had signed up to be responsible for an entire dorm group of ten 12-13 year olds! Fortunately **Sue Campbell**, my mentor and roommate, calmed my nerves (somewhat), gave me tips and shared her experiences. The first day was a bit chaotic: meeting the girls upon arrival, watching them say good-bye to their parents, taking them through orientation, getting them settled in for the night...but I survived.

On “build-it night,” the last night of camp, all the dorm groups had 1.5 hours to build structures made out of rolled newspaper and masking tape. My dorm group decided to build a Trojan Horse. It took creativity, team work, engineering insight, and project management. It was thrilling to witness my diverse group of Tech Trek girls come together as an inclusive, well-functioning team that won the Jenga Award for the Most Intricate Design. I was beaming with pride.

You may also be interested to know about GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math & Science). Open to girls in 8th - 12th grades, this AAUW Healdsburg program expands our academically talented local girls’ knowledge of STEM careers through talks by successful female role models and field trips to tech-oriented companies. Still reading? Now that I’ve taken the plunge into hands-on Tech Trekking, over the next year I’ll be spearheading a new STEM MENTOR program. The goal of this initiative is to provide 2019 Tech Trekkers with an AAUW role model/mentor who will build a long-term, caring relationship with a girl to help her work through the educational and financial challenges of going to college. This too is uncharted territory for me. Stay tuned for more updates on my latest challenge!

—Karla Rosen

2019 Tech Trek Moments



Karla's group with the Build It Trojan Horse



Aalyiah during Design Class



Maya soldering



Stacy dissecting a squid



Jennifer in Coding Class



Sue's Build It Group

Tech Trek scholarships are made possible only through the generous donations of businesses, organizations, and individuals. We want to thank our donors for their support of Tech Trek:

E & M Electric and Machinery
Max Machinery, Inc.
Rotary Club of Healdsburg (Noon)
Soroptimist International of Healdsburg
Soroptimist International of Windsor
Ann Allan
Heidi Blumenthal
Bobbie Denmon
Mary Lee McCune
Amy Neel

MISSION-BASED PROGRAMS

Mission-Based Programs consist of committees that work to support our community, particularly in education for students in preschool through high school.

Future Prep brings people who work in interesting career fields three times a year to students in both Healdsburg High School and Cloverdale High School. **Cecile Peters** is the chair for Cloverdale, and **Martha Noble**, **Dena Lash**, and **Hillary Kambour** will be working with Healdsburg High. If you are interested in helping, please contact me or someone on the committees.

School Readiness is a committee with the mission to assist in making sure that all children are ready for Kindergarten and school success, both social/emotionally and academically. We are still forming the activities that we will be doing, but if you are interested in this topic and have ideas, please let **Barbara Epstein** or me know.

Reading Rocks is a program in which AAUW volunteers read one-on-one with primary students at West Side School and Healdsburg Elementary. It is one of our oldest programs and one that is loved by the school community. If you are interested in participating, please contact **Shally Schultz** for Healdsburg Elementary or **Pat Bertapelle** for West Side.

—Beth Wolk

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

AAUW Prune Packers Night

The Healdsburg Prune Packers honored the Healdsburg AAUW on Wednesday July 9th in an exciting game that saw the Packers winning 11-5 against the San Francisco Seals. What a great turn out! Close to 45 AAUW members and their spouses gathered for the event, and our own President, **Linda Clark**, threw out the first ball in an evening filled with fun, hot dogs, and popcorn. Another member, **Carol Noack**, sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. We all sat together as a group to make a little noise and cheer on the Packers. Throughout the evening, the announcer treated the audience to facts about the AAUW organization. All in all, an informative and fun night.



—Kathryn Henderson (Photos courtesy of Scarlett Wood)

PLEASE COME TO THE PARTY!

Healdsburg AAUW Annual 'Kick-Off' Party
Tuesday, September 17, 2019
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Marian Van Alyea's Home
3955 Lambert Bridge Road
Dry Creek Valley
Healdsburg

PLEASE COME TO THE PARTY! Yes, it's almost time to kick off our AAUW 2019-2020 year. You'll want to hear about the exciting plans for the coming year, visit with our Board Members, socialize with old friends as well as meet new ones. **Please remember to wear your name tag.** We may have a cool evening, so consider bringing a wrap or jacket

If your last name begins with **A through L**, please bring an appetizer to share.

If your last name begins with **M through Z**, please bring a bottle of wine.

Please carpool when possible. Parking is limited.

Respond by September 10 to: Susan Lentz at susangrape@comcast.net or 707. 431. 2830.

This is an RSVP event. There will be a social committee member checking members in as they arrive to greet you and check you in. We look forward to seeing you there!

—Kathryn Henderson

FALL HAPPY HOUR - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Please join us in celebrating our first Happy Hour of the season at Leo Steen Tasting Room in Healdsburg, located on Front Street. We will enjoy our own appetizers and purchase wonderful wines by the glass. Originally from Denmark, Leo has an interesting background working in the food and wine industry. He came to California in 1999 and immersed himself in winemaking firsthand.

Date: Thursday, October 3

Time: 5-7

Bring: Appetizer, Cash for Wine (\$10 glass)

Location: 53 Front Street, Healdsburg

Please look for an RSVP request e-blast a few weeks prior to the event. We look forward to what we hope will be an enthusiastic turnout and warm fall evening so we can enjoy their outdoor patio!

Carol Hazlett (707.799.1362 and Neita Comings (602.670.4320)

SAVE THE DATE!

Healdsburg AAUW Fall Wine 'n Dine — Friday, October 11, 2019

Venues to be determined

MEMBERSHIP

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Jennifer Crandall

Jennifer grew up in Princeton, New Jersey, until high school, when she moved to Tucson, Arizona, to be with her mother and complete her education. She received her B.A. in Distributed Studies from the University of Colorado in Boulder, and went off to dental school at the University of the Pacific at the age of 20. At the age of 23 she started a solo practice from scratch in the Marina district of San Francisco, and practiced there for 18 years. Looking to find balance between work and play (at age 41) she sold her SF practice and moved to Ventura County where she purchased an equestrian ranch and bred and showed dressage horses. She also took up watercolor painting, a little bit of golf, and practiced dentistry part-time in the San Fernando Valley. Needing to be back in a small community, in 2009 Jennifer relocated herself part-time to Healdsburg until her ranch sold in 2012. Now she “space shares” in Fountaingrove and enjoys dentistry at a pace that allows her to give quality care to her patients.



Last year she found her champion mare a new home, finished her three-year remodel home project, and put to rest her 16-year-old Jack Russell. She now feels she has time to contribute to her forever community in Healdsburg and is looking forward to her membership with AAUW.

Dena Lash

Dena and her husband have lived in Wikiup for 30 years. Having grown up in the L.A. area, when the two came of age they immediately looked to escape Southern California and found Sonoma County. Although they had to evacuate from their home during the fires, their house survived. Dena has found it hard to remain in Wikiup after the devastation, but is comforted both by how the remaining residents have become closer in the wake of the disaster and how the landscaping has returned in all its glory.

Dena began her career teaching ESL and then moved into marketing, public relations and employment. She spent most of her working life as the manager of Employment and Training for Sonoma County. Now she does some private career advising and training for those seeking to change careers. In addition, both Dena and her husband are fused glass artists, and she makes acrylic abstracts as well.



When not busy at work and art, Dena spends time with her grandchildren (twin 2-year-olds and a 5-year-old) who live in Arizona. She is also a bike rider and a hiker.

Although Dena is a member of AAUW Santa Rosa, she was moved to join Healdsburg AAUW for its hiking groups, book clubs, and Great Decisions activities.

Ann Van Noy

Ann graduated college in 1978 with a degree in journalism and began a career in advertising—first for power tool maker, Black and Decker, in Los Angeles. Later she took a position with a consumer products branding and packaging firm where she continued to apply her writing and marketing skills to a diverse client base. After three years of working together, she and the company’s owner married, and together they built the business to a sizeable creative firm of 25 employees.

The hectic L.A. life style began to wear thin, however; and when computers made it possible to work from anywhere, Ann and her husband, Jim, began looking for another home. They found their way to Healdsburg for the first time in 1989 and, soon after, bought a 16 acre ranch on Westside Road where they built a home and planted Pinot Noir. The two commuted from LA for 10 years before becoming full-time Healdsburg residents



in 2000.

Now working only part-time, Ann is looking to become more involved in our community. She recently joined the Healdsburg Chorus, as well as AAUW. She has many friends who are AAUW members and was impressed with the array of activities in which they were involved. Among other things, Ann is interested in helping with the Homes Tour.

PROOFREADER SOUGHT FOR THE GRAPEVINE

Do you pride yourself on being a good speller? Do you gnash your teeth when you see "it's" where it should have been "its"?

For many years, Louise Lambert and Judy Edmonds have dedicated themselves to proofing the Grapevine before it's ready for publication. Louise has decided to take a well-earned retirement, so there is now a spot for a volunteer who will take on her job. It's always better to have two different sets of eyes doing this job. You work by yourself, so you can do this on your own schedule but within a few days after receiving the draft so that needed revisions can be made in time to get the finished document posted on the Web site by the first of each month. It will take approximately 1 to 2 hours per month, for the 10 months of the year that we produce a newsletter.

After all, since we are known as "University Women" (along with a couple of outstanding university men), we need to present our best selves to the community!

If you are interested, please contact Katherine Lacy, the Grapevine editor, at kk.lacy@gmail.com.

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 both feedback and newsletter content to me at kk.lacy@gmail.com. Many thanks!

—Katherine Lacy