

The Grapevine

April 2020

Volume 35, Number 8

President's Message



Our world changed with the spread of COVID-19. Originally, this column focused on all the social activities that members can participate in. Instead, we're social distancing and finding online ways of staying in touch. The Board of Directors and other committees have been meeting via conference calls.

It also required us to take the responsible step of cancelling our two major fund raisers, the Spring Forum and the Homes Tour and—at least for the moment—postponing our installation luncheon. We hope to find new ways of generating funds so that our amazing work around programs and scholarships for girls can continue with minimal decreases. Please watch for information about this and say “YES” whenever possible.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again soon. Until then, follow the guidelines and stay safe.

—Linda Clark

Public Policy

Reproductive Health for All in 2020

As American women consider action to ensure reproductive health rights in 2020, it is useful to recall that in the 17th and 18th centuries pregnancy termination was legal under common law before ‘quickening’ (fetal movement) that occurs approximately 16 weeks after conception.

After 1850 the crusade in the U.S. against voluntary pregnancy termination stepped up. According to Lauren McIver Thompson (author of “Battle for Birth Control ...”) physicians, known for irregular practice and lack of training, in order to “establish their place as respected members of society” argued about the ‘rights of the unborn’ - sound familiar? New York Times, December 15, 2019. By 1900 in accord with the Comstock Act of 1873 most states had passed laws restricting termination and contraception. As a consequence, by the 1930s one report estimated that 681 thousand abortions led to 8 to 10 thousand maternal deaths.

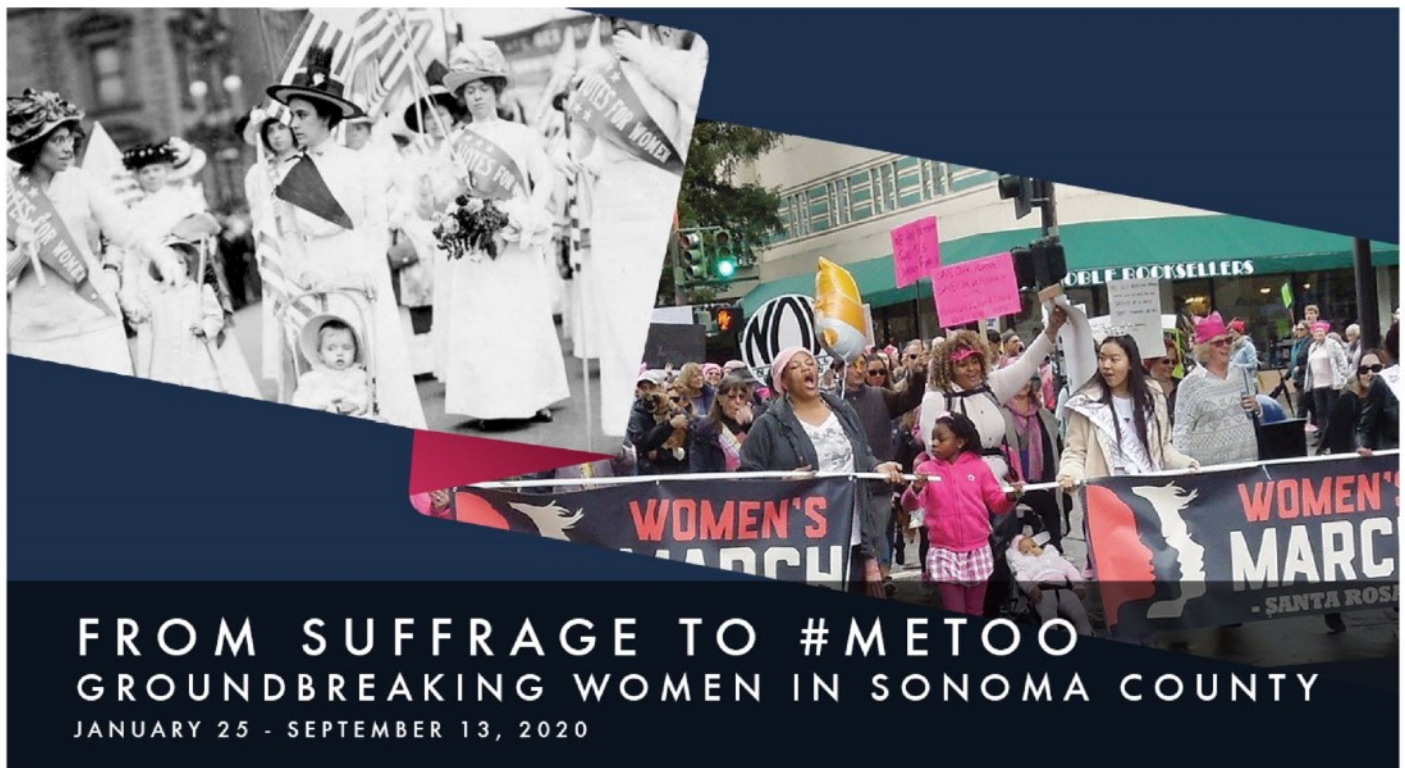
It took a decision by the Supreme Court in 1973 to change the numbers, but the struggle continues. On Friday, January 24, 2020, at the March for Life rally, the president threatened to take away California's federal funding in accord with the Weldon Amendment because of California law that ensures private insurers provide abortion and contraception coverage. The HHS department gave the state 30 days to lift the regulation, saying that the state is not compliant with the amendment. Note that four years ago federal opinion confirmed California's compliance to not discriminate against a health care facility. Yet, Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) on February 21, 2020, emailed support for health care entities that don't want to supply equal legal health services to all.

After the February 4 president's State of the Union speech there is no doubt women must continue to advocate for reproductive health rights - especially for black and Native American women who have far higher pregnancy-related mortality rates than white women. Of 15 policies suggested by the National Partnership for Women the most important: access to all forms of abortion care and contraception regardless of where you live.

Lastly, keep track of the U.S. Senate vote on two bills at the end of February: 1) to institute a 20-week abortion ban and 2) to require medical care be delivered to infants that survive abortions, a misleading bill given that infanticide is already a crime.

Claire Noonan, AAUW Public Policy committee
Submitted by Sue Campbell

From Suffrage to #MeToo



Do you know who the first woman to achieve elected office in Sonoma County was? The woman from Sebastopol who pioneered environmental studies? The woman from Santa Rosa who led the national effort to recognize women in history? Do you know their stories? 2020 is the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, giving women the constitutional right to vote - a major milestone with a focus on the stories of over a century of groundbreaking women in Sonoma County and the North Bay, From Suffrage to #MeToo explores the changing expectations, challenges and obstacles to inclusion that women have faced and the remarkable people who have broken through the barriers. Find out more at <https://museumsc.org/suffrage-metoo/>.

—Sue Campbell



Suffragist Soundbites!

April 4th: the Grand Opening of a new exhibit at Sebastopol’s West County Museum- a Suffragist Headquarters! Actors will explain how our county became involved in the movement. The exhibit will continue through November 1st.

Did you know?

Susan B. Anthony came to Healdsburg in 1871 to present the “Power of the Ballot.”

40 years later, in April of 1912, Healdsburg women voted for the first time in the municipal election. According to the Healdsburg Tribune: “The women had no difficulty casting their vote and seemed to enjoy it.” (!)

Sue Finan at the Rosie Rally to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8.

AAUW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



LIZ LOEBEL

Leadership Personified! For 18 years Liz Loebel has been an essential leader of our AAUW Branch. After joining in 2002, she was involved in many formative areas of our organization:

Liz helped negotiate the transfer of the Homes Tour to AAUW in 2006. She was the first AAUW Co-chair of the Homes Tour in 2006 and co-chaired the Tour with Judy Edmonds in 2007. She was a Board member for 10 years in various positions, including being President from 2009-2011.

Although there was some resistance to the idea, Liz and Judy Edmonds founded our amazing Forum series in 2015. She was Forum Chair from 2017-2019. What an addition to our community this activity has proven to be...and what a fundraiser !

Liz was instrumental in developing our first website and has been on the website committee ever since. She sends out all our branch email blasts. She is co-chair of our hiking group, chair of the 2020 Tech Trek Selection Committee, and has been the volunteer coordinator for the 2019 and 2020 Homes Tour.

Liz is a 4th generation Californian. She grew up in El Cerrito. Fun fact : she was a PomPom girl for the 49ers in high school. A University of California-Davis graduate in economics, she spent her career in San Francisco mostly involved in IT, both as a programmer and later as a consultant. She raised 2 children in San Rafael.

Liz and Al married in 1997, and moved to Healdsburg in 2000. Her hobbies are hiking, skiing, gardening, travel, and happily helping out with her grandgirls, aged 5 and 8. She has been a Master Gardener since 2004 and is currently working on the Garden Sense program in our community.

Thank you Liz for all that you have done and continue to do for our AAUW branch. It’s obvious that your strong leadership has truly made a difference.

–Kate Van Ness



MISSION-BASED PROGRAMS

AAUW Supports the Healdsburg Preschool Fair



AAUW is a supporter of the Healdsburg Preschool Fair. The third annual Fair was hosted by Corazón at the Healdsburg Community Center on January 26th.

This year, fifteen area preschool and childcare providers set up booths at the Fair. Nearly 100 families came, asked questions, and got information on local educational opportunities for their preschool-aged children. In addition, there were toys and wellness displays for children to enjoy at the Fair and free books and supplies to take home. Families and providers all agreed the Fair was a big success.

—Barbara Epstein

Future Prep

The first Future Prep event at Healdsburg High School for the 2019-2020 school year was held on January 17. The topic was Agriculture and Hospitality. The presenters were Don Albini, a winemaker, Eva Albini, a vineyard manager for Constellation Brands, Andrew Smith from the Sonoma County Agriculture Commission, Veronica De Cassis, who has had a variety of jobs in the hospitality industry, including managing a large catering company and owning a wine tour business, as well as Colette Winkelmann from Simi Wines and an AAUW member. The students wrote touching thank you notes to the speakers. Here is one of them that I thought you would like to read.

Dear Veronica

Thank you so much for come to Healdsburg High and speaking to us about your career. Hearing about the hardships you went through to get where you are today was shocking and so inspiring. Every down that you had never made you give up which showed me that if “you have a challenge, take the challenge.” Being a female in the wine business is awesome and inspiring. Hearing your story throughout your journey showed me that you can do anything no matter how hard. Thank you again for coming to HHS and speaking about your career.



If you would like to inspire a student, our next Future Prep at Healdsburg High School is on Thursday, April 30 IF classes are resumed. The topic is Trades. If you have or had a career in the construction, auto, plumbing, masonry, electrical, or any other trade or if you know someone that would like to speak please let me or Hillary Kambour (hillarykambour@gmail.com) know. If you would like to be involved in Future Prep this year or next, please let us know.

—Beth Wolk, blwolk@gmail.com

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

WINTER WINE 'N DINE - FEBRUARY 22nd

I had the opportunity to host together with Violet Nelson a very fun Mardi Gras-themed "Wine and Dine" at the Paul Mahder Art Gallery in downtown Healdsburg. Guests arrived in festive attire, masks included. Mardi Gras, as you know, is a celebration of the last opportunity for eating "fat" before "lean" Lent begins, with its preparation through fasting for Easter. Our fat feast included Grapeseed wines and Peach Bellinis, scrumptious Louisiana-style appetizers, classic gumbo and jambalaya, plus not-so-healthy veggies prepared Fat Tuesday-style. We finished of course, with home-made Key Lime Pie. One of our newest members, Hillary and her husband Tom, made a classic King Cake with a tiny baby doll hidden inside. Tradition decrees that the guest who gets the baby is next year's host. Untraditionally, however, the baby was not to be found, even under Violet's very thorough inspection, but it was fun anyway! In the end, though, baby did emerge upon the exit of the President Elect's husband, and excitement filled the room. Now that I think about it, who ended up with the baby?

—Collette Winkelmann



At Laura Tyler's



At Mary Fitzgerald's

MEMBERSHIP

Meet Our New Members!

Jenean Campos

What do you do with a B.A. in Anthropology and a minor in Native American Studies? If you're Jenean Campos, you turn your curiosity about people and cultures into a career traveling the world. Jenean's work producing corporate events has involved building teams and producing shows all over the world.

Jenean grew up in Kailua, Hawaii and landed in Menlo Park in 1978. In 1983, a friend who worked in administration at Apple was promoted, and asked Jenean to apply for her former job. For the next 35 years, Jenean moved back and forth between Apple and other companies in the tech industry. Opportunities at Apple always seemed to call her back. She finally left for the last time, and landed at Facebook—a young pre-IPO company with a young leader, where she developed a global team that produced world class events.



At the invitation of long-time friend Judy Edmonds, Jenean regularly came up to Healdsburg and she and her partner Annie fell in love with the area, buying a property in 2015 and moving into the home in 2017. However, the two soon found the property a bit too small (they have two labradoodles) and moved to Cloverdale in 2018.

Volunteering has long been a large part of Jenean's life. She volunteered at the Okizu foundation. Okizu is an organization that helps families and children with cancer heal through ongoing support. More recently in 2017, she traveled to Athens to work with refugees from Afghanistan.

Since retiring, Jenean has enjoyed hiking, gardening, and exploring her new stomping grounds. She is interested in building community and giving back. She looks forward to becoming active in AAUW's mentoring programs.

Annie Himmelstein

After a few years of family health problems, Annie is ready to re-join AAUW. She first joined in 2016 and for two years mentored students participating in Speech Trek. (One year she mentored the winner!). Annie is looking forward to making new friends, and spending time hiking Sonoma County's many trails with AAUW.

Originally from Philadelphia, Annie obtained her degree in marketing management from The George Washington University. After a divorce, in the summer of 2001, she moved her two boys from Columbus to Charleston to start her new life in a city that, at the time was thriving. Unfortunately the disaster of 9/11 changed the economy and Annie moved her family to Berkeley. There she worked for 10 years as the architectural representative for a stone and tile importer. Annie loved this job, as she adored the products she was selling and was a bit of a frustrated architect herself.



In 2009, she went on a blind date with her future husband, Turner. They soon began looking for alternatives to living in Berkeley full-time and after visiting a friend on Mill Creek Road, decided to rent a home in the Dry Creek Valley. Soon after, they located a property on the same road as their rental and spent two years building their home where they are today.

Annie has a large and beautiful garden and loves to play puzzles and boardgames. She wants to start a scrabble club with AAUW.

—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*. Please be aware that any submitted article that is longer than one page will be edited as necessary.

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