



The Grapevine

September 2020

Volume 36, Number 1



**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE
& ENRICHING THOUGHT**

Fall 2020 Courses – Registration begins September 1

The Forum will be back in October! As a result of the ongoing Covid epidemic, classes will be presented online via Zoom, an easy-to-use web conferencing site. We feel fortunate to have a safe way to present our wonderful Forum classes, and to continue to raise money for our AAUW scholarship programs.

We have two new dynamic and popular instructors this fall. Both are frequent lecturers at other Bay area life-long learning programs.



Mick Chantler



Terry Ebinger

Statesmen and Rogues:
The Founding Fathers from
Washington to Madison
Presented by Mick Chantler
Tuesday, 10-11:45am, Oct 6-Nov 10

Deep Hitchcock:
Symbol and Psychology in Shot and Scene
Presented by Terry Ebinger
Thursday, 10-11:45am, Oct 8-Nov 12

Registration will start on September 1st. Once registered, you will be given a link and password instructions on how to sign into the class. If you are new to Zoom, you will be offered a practice session before classes commence to familiarize yourself with how the process works. We look forward to seeing everyone in this “virtual” way, and to continue to raise money for our AAUW scholarship programs!

—Celeste Plaister



President's Message

Welcome back from a summer like no other. I hope all of you are safe, healthy, and at least somewhat sane. Although National, State, and our local Healdsburg branch have been limited in activities, there is still opportunity to participate in our mission to advance equity for girls and women.

In this issue you can read about the Terrific Science Virtual Camp project conducted by Mickey Sarquis, Karla Rosen, and Nancy Andrews. This was put on for the 2020 Tech Trek girls whose session at Stanford was canceled.

Celeste Plaister and her hard-working committee have created a Forum program available using Zoom. The new format could be an opportunity for an expanded audience as we are no longer restricted to being physically present for these wonderful classes. Not only are the subjects interesting but it will also be a major source of fundraising for our scholarship programs this year.

100 years ago, the 19th Amendment was ratified in August 1920. This milestone required years of agitation and protest, but finally women were granted the right to vote. Women's suffrage is not a dull history of unhappy spinsters. Instead it is a revolution led by women to reform our society. It's still a work in progress, BUT there is progress happening. We should all stop and admire the difficult, frustrating work accomplished by those stubborn, determined women.

As we hit our press deadline, fire season had exploded. If you are evacuated, I hope you and your loved ones are in a safe place. If you are under evacuation warning, I hope you are prepared with your go-bag and other necessities. If you have lost your home, how can we help? In addition to all the wildfire preparation, don't forget to observe all the Covid-19 precautions. First priority is safety and health.

—Kate Van Ness

Political Action News

ADVOCACY TIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

On several occasions, our members have asked for recommendations on how they can get more involved in advocating for change. Here are a few things that I'm doing and would love to have others join me. Let me know if you have other advocacy activities that you're passionate about. rslalonde@comcast.net

TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST:

AAUW makes it so easy to voice your support for legislation, and contacting your legislative representatives really does make a difference. If you haven't signed up or can't remember if you signed up, sign up today:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

ADVOCACY EDUCATION:

The AAUW National website has exceptional resources to quickly educate yourself on current issues impacting women. For more information on important legislative issues, click on the AAUW Quick Facts links in the Policy Center:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/policy-center/>

GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV) POSTCARDS:

I call this my postcard therapy. At this point I've written about 600 to encourage individuals to vote. National AAUW supports us partnering with other organizations as long as the activity is non-partisan. Contact me (rslalonde@comcast.net) or Indivisible Healdsburg for postcards (3,700 postcards sent so far):

<https://indivisiblehealdsburg.org/>

THE BIG SEND (GOTV):

Vote Forward is a non-profit organization seeking volunteers to help send 10 million voter turnout letters in 2020. You can adopt registered voters then send them a letter encouraging them to get out and vote. Each templated letter is personalized by you with why you vote:

<https://votefwd.org/>

SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

On August 22, 2020 the United States Postal Service will issue the "Women Vote" Forever Stamp celebrating the 19th Amendment:

https://store.usps.com/store/product/buy-stamps/19th-amendment-women-vote-S_476604

By: Rebecca La Londe

Public Policy Director

It's Personal

When video conferencing with Senator McGuire's office to advocate for a State bill to expand family leave, I thought I was performing a political chore on behalf of our Healdsburg AAUW branch. I put on my professional demeanor and attitude and rehearsed the bullet points I wanted to emphasize. But suddenly this "political" assignment became a deeply personal one.

I don't know about you, but the endless feeling of vulnerability as this pandemic drags on has resulted in a much more "emotional" me with difficult memories sitting just under the surface waiting for an opportunity to bubble up. In reading the legislative summary, I found myself flooded with memories of caring for my father.

Before he was sick with severe dementia, my father was a gentle, humble, soft-spoken man but all that changed as his disease progressed. Near the end, his behavior was so extreme that no skilled nursing facility would accept him; not even the ones that specialized in Alzheimer's Disease. It was heartbreaking and left us trying to cobble together a plan to care for him at home until he died. Fortunately, I worked for a company that was required by law to offer family leave. After depleting all my vacation time, I finally asked for an unpaid leave of absence. I still remember how hard it was to make that request, how much guilt I felt as my colleagues picked up my workload, and how stressful it was to plan for a period of time without an income. Although it was tough, because of the tremendous support of my family, I was able to manage the unpaid leave and spend precious time caring for my father. I simply can't imagine the cruelty of having to choose between caring for your family and keeping your job.

A family illness is devastating because current family leave laws fail to cover about 40 percent of workers. This happens at companies with fewer than 50 employees and also workers whose tenure is too short or have worked fewer annual hours than required. Because upward of 75% of caregivers are female, this issue is especially pressing for women. As women's advocates, this issue should be front and center — something we can all agree is imperative to reducing family suffering in a truly difficult time.

As Senator McGuire and I talked about how lucky I was to have my job protected while I cared for my father, and that no one should have to choose between their job and caring for their family, I noticed the Senator's demeanor changed. He talked about being the son of a working, single mother, and how difficult it was for her to make ends meet. I think that made it personal for him too.

By: **Rebecca La Londe**

Public Policy Director

Resources:

The AAUW National website has exceptional resources to quickly educate yourself on current issues impacting women. For more information on Family Leave, click on the AAUW Quick Facts link: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/03/quick-facts-Paid-Leave-nsa.pdf>

Mission-Based Programs

Mission-Based Programs consist of committees that work to support our community, particularly in the field of education for students in preschool through high school. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, most of our current volunteer activities are on hold. We are currently exploring ideas as to how we can contribute to the world of virtual education. Please let me know if you have any thoughts.

Here is a list of our programs and chairs:

Future Prep brings people who work in interesting career fields 2-3 times a year to students in both Healdsburg High School and Cloverdale High School. **Diane Bartleson** is the chair for Cloverdale, and as of now, there is no chairperson for Healdsburg High School.

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. **Diane Burnley** is the chair for Healdsburg Elementary and **Pat Bertapelle** is the chair for West Side School.

School Readiness is a committee with its mission to assist in insuring that all children are ready for Kindergarten and school success, both social/emotionally and academically. **Charlene Luks** and **Barbara Epstein** chair this committee.

Holiday Supplies for Teachers: *Every year our members donate supplies for the teachers in Healdsburg Unified and West Side that we give out in the holiday season. I am looking for a chair and a small committee to coordinate this important event. If you would like to help, please let me know.*

Beth Wolk
Mission Based Programs Director

Terrific Virtual Summer Camp

When we received the heartbreaking news that Tech Trek 2020 had been cancelled due to the coronavirus, we needed to rethink how to inspire our high achieving 8th grade girls to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education and careers. For over 20 years, AAUW Healdsburg has sent our Tech Trek scholarship winners to AAUW's Tech Trek Camp Curie, a one-week residential STEM camp at Stanford. Terrific Science Virtual Camp (TSVC) was created to offer these girls an exciting alternative STEM experience.

•“I had a lot of fun! It was super fun doing all the experiments on the zoom and with my friends and family. Thank you for letting us join this experience!” Izzy

The camp instruction was led by 2 women scientist role models: Mickey Sarquis, a retired Chemistry Professor who developed the curriculum and wrote the “Lather Up” activity handbook used at camp, and Nancy Andrews, a retired Environmental Scientist.



•*“I did like camp. I liked how we got to meet everyone. I won’t change anything because it was all fun.” Griselle*

TSVC activities consisted of four 1-hour Zoom sessions and several do-at-home science experiments, readings, and discussions. A box of experiment materials was delivered to each camper’s home. The curriculum covered the science behind the coronavirus-related hand-washing techniques, disease transmission, microbes, super germs and antibiotic resistance.

•*“I liked the experiment that we did. It was super fun! I showed it to my brother and he said it was awesome. He loved it and was interested on how it worked.” Rebecca*

The campers worked virtually with teammates from other schools to create experiments and presentations. They demonstrated an excellent understanding of new scientific concepts, as shown in the example slide below.

Many thanks to the TSVC committee (Mickey Sarquis, Nancy Andrews, Karla Rosen and Kerry Weiner Elkind) for their vision, creativity and record setting implementation! Thanks to the Tech Trek committee (Liz Loebel, Katherine Lacy, Diane Meyers and Sharyn Sarquis) for their professional and caring interaction with the schools, teachers, girls and parents to select these remarkable campers. A special thanks to Terrific Science for donating materials, expertise and web space that made TSCV possible.

Looking ahead, TSVC will be the jumping off point for a Tech Trek Alumni Group. Please contact me if you are interested in joining this new committee or Tech Trek. You can find more in-depth information at <https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net/files/2020/08/TSVC-Grapevine-Article-081520.pdf>

By: **Karla Rosen**
STEM Director

Tech Trek Sponsors, 2020

AAUW Healdsburg raises funds each year to send up to nine 8th grade girls to Tech Trek, a one-week residential summer camp at Stanford University. The participants have an opportunity to pursue a variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) classes led by women professionals. Based on the letters these girls write describing their camp activities and experience, we know how successful the camp is in encouraging young women to pursue careers in STEM fields and to envision higher education for themselves.

The Tech Trek Fundraising Committee, chaired by Pat Novak Nelson, raised funds for nine scholarships to the 2020 summer camp from these very generous donors:

E&M Electric and Machinery
Max Machinery, Inc.
Rotary Club of Healdsburg (Noon)
Soroptimist International of Healdsburg
The Neel Foundation
Heidi Blumenthal
Mary Lee McCune
Pat and Greg Nelson and matching funds from Prudential Financial Inc.

When Covid19 cancelled the summer 2020 camp, all of our Tech Trek sponsors agreed that AAUW Healdsburg could hold their donations for Tech Trek 2021. We are very grateful for their donations and permission to hold over the funds. AAUW Healdsburg and local Tech Trek participants are most appreciative of sponsors' continued support.

By: **Barbara Epstein**
Fundraising Director

Membership

WELCOME TO AAUW 2020/21

Membership renewal invoices have been sent out by email to our membership roster and your responses have been great! Another round will be sent out by the end of the month as a reminder for those who have not paid their dues. Payment can be made on line by credit or debit cards, or alternately a cheque for the \$104.00 can be sent to our P.O. Box 1064 made payable to AAUW Healdsburg.

If your situation has changed and you will no longer be continuing on with AAUW Healdsburg, please send an email to me, at blsreid@gmail.com and I will adjust the roster accordingly.

Hoping that you are all safe and healthy and I look forward to seeing you on Zoom for a book club, Great Decisions or however else we can stay connected!

**By: Barbara Reid
Membership Director**

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 Donna Riley at dldrth@gmail.com.