

The Grapevine

December 2020

Volume 36, Number 4



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & ENRICHING THOUGHT

Winter 2021 Courses – Registration begins November 15

Registration for our Zoom Winter Classes has Started!



Professor Chris O'Sullivan

The Transformation of America:
A Social and Economic History of the United
States

**Tuesdays 10-11:45AM,
January 12 - February 16**



Professor Alex Saragoza

Mexican Immigration to the U.S.:
A Bilateral Perspective

**Thursdays 10-11:45 AM
January 14 - February 18**

After a successful Fall session, we are looking forward to our on-line winter classes. We are excited to have the ever popular Chris O'Sullivan Ph.D. return to the Forum, along with an award-winning UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus, Alex Saragoza Ph.D. For a full description of their bios and courses, please go to our [AAUW web page](#), where you can also register for the courses.

New this session, AAUW Forum will make recordings of the classes available for viewing on the web for approximately one week after each class is presented. Instructions on how to access these recordings will be sent to registered students after each class is presented.

If anyone needs help with Zoom Webinar please call me at 707-326-1999.

We are so thankful to be able to continue to enjoy our Forum classes and at the same time continue to raise money for our wonderful AAUW programs.

Stay safe during the Holidays and see you on-line in January.

-Celeste Plaister

President's Message



Turnout in the 2020 Presidential election hit a 50-year high. Each candidate received the highest number of votes in our history—in the middle of a raging pandemic! Voices have been heard, and a stubborn glass ceiling has been broken by Kamala Harris. Congratulations on this historic vote!

Following are a few words in honor of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She was a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist. AAUW recognized Justice Ginsburg with an Achievement Award in 1999. A few tributes:

-“For all who believe in the power of the law as a force for change, Justice Ginsburg will always be a Titan.” Kamala Harris, Vice President Elect

-“Ruth Bader Ginsburg changed the way the world is for American women.” Nina Totenberg, National Public Radio

-“For so many of us, Justice Ginsburg was a real-life Superhero.” Kate McKinnon, Saturday Night Live

I hope all of you were able to celebrate Thanksgiving one way or another, and that the holiday season brings health and peace to all of you. With the news that a Covid 19 vaccine will possibly be ready for initial distribution by early 2021, I look forward to a time when AAUW will be able to resume our good work and good fun.

—Kate Van Ness



Mission-Based Programs

Holiday Supplies for Teachers

For many years, our branch has collected school supplies and given them to the teachers of Healdsburg schools at the holidays. Members brought the supplies to our annual holiday party, or dropped them off at a committee member's home. This year, our teachers and school staff are working so very hard, creating and delivering an online curriculum for distance learning. We want to honor that work and their dedication, as always. However, due to the pandemic, it will be difficult for members to shop for supplies, and, of course, we have no holiday party for drop-off. This year, we have decided to do something different. **We are asking you to donate a \$10 Starbucks card** as your holiday contribution to the amazing educators and support staff at our schools. They will be placed in a holiday card and delivered to the schools to be distributed. If you wish to add scissors, glue sticks, whiteboard markers, #2 pencils or crayons, please feel free. You can **mail** the gift cards to the following locations: Please do it by December 11.

Beth Wolk- 886 Jensen Lane, Windsor 95492

Pat Bertapelle- 1160 Felta Road, Healdsburg 95448

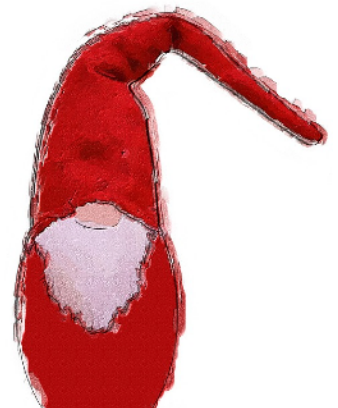
If you want to drop off any supplies and a card, you can do so at:

Ann Mahoney-730 University St. Healdsburg

Beth Wolk-886 Jensen Lane, Windsor

The gift cards will be the most important!

Thank you in advance for your generosity to our incredible educators!



-Beth Wolk, Mission-Based Programs Chair

2020 SRJC Scholarships for Re-entry Women

Our efforts are making a difference

As a part of our Healdsburg AAUW branch's mission of encouraging higher education for women, this year we awarded scholarships to six highly deserving re-entry women who graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College and are now pursuing their degrees at a four-year college/university. These awards bring the total amount in scholarships to SRJC students to nearly \$279,000 since 1995. Applicants were carefully screened via a new online system that worked perfectly during the pandemic. Our scholarship committee included **Cindy Brenton, Maureen Keefe, Rebecca West, Phil Wright** and myself.

Besides the academic rigor of taking college classes, this year's awardees have had to overcome a host of significant barriers that cause many others to rethink their need for a college degree, lower their career goals, or walk away from college never to return. Not so with this year's scholarship recipients! While they all, at one point, were forced to step back from school, each rallied in her own way, worked through and overcame the challenges that confronted them, returned to and graduated from SRJC, and are now pursuing their degrees at a 4-year college/university. What did this year's candidates face that forced them to drop out of school in the first place?

- Struggling with mental health issues
- Life changing physical injury and raising 4 children
- Addiction, homelessness and incarceration
- Teen mom, high school dropout and vision disability
- Financial instability and family matters



Despite all that confronted these women, our recipients are winners! They DID return and graduated with highest honors from the SRJC. Each, in their own way, not only worked to better her life, but also worked to make a difference in the lives of others and their communities. You can find a brief introduction to this year's awardees on the Community Service/Scholarships and Grants page of our Branch Web site.

-Jane Martin, Committee Chairman

Membership

Book Club News

The First Thursday book group is welcoming new, active members. We are currently meeting on Zoom, but when we can get back to it, we meet at member homes on the first Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM. We have 3 roles when we meet at member homes - someone leads the discussion, someone supplies the refreshment (usually a dessert), and someone hosts the readers in her home. We would like to have new members be able to take part in the selection of books for 2021, which will take place in the early part of the year. If you are interested, please email or call **Cher Frechette**: cherylfrechette@yahoo.com or 707-570-7559.

Member Bio

Each month, a Healdsburg AAUW board member will submit an article about one of its members.

Karla Rosen



“The wilderness refreshes my soul” is a fact that drives Karla’s love of the hiking, biking, kayaking, and exploring the world and sustains her as she totally immerses herself in whatever she does. Active throughout AAUW including Great Decisions and hiking groups, Karla has also helped with the FFA parade, our previous speaker series, the homes tours, Equal Pay Day, and in a multitude of capacities with our Tech Trek programs, including its finance committee, selection committee (two years as chair), and, in 2019, as a dorm-mom overseeing ten 8th grade girls during their weeklong residential Tech Trek adventure at Stanford’s Camp Curie.

With this background, it’s not surprising that Karla was summoned to become the first director of our new [STEM Community Service](#) board position, a role she assumed with vigor. She spearheaded and co-chaired our Branch’s [Terrific Science Virtual Camp](#) and gleefully served as its virtual dorm mom. In the introductions, she proclaimed, “Learning science is fun!” and when asked, “what one word describes what you love about science?”, she told the girls “DISCOVERY.” Karla encouraged the campers to take a multidisciplinary approach to their education to better prepare for the growing inter-connectedness of people and technologies. These ideas became foundational to the experiences shared with the girls throughout the camp.

Recognizing the importance of building on the Tech Trek experience, Karla recently introduced [Tech Trek Alumni Group \(TTAG\)](#) to bolster these exceptional girls’ interest in STEM through high school and beyond. With the encouragement of AAUW advisors, these Tech Trek Alumnae will develop leadership skills and enjoy social interaction with like-minded girls who have similar ambitions and goals.

Karla grew up in Elkhart, Indiana, started college at Tulane, transferred to the University of Colorado where she graduated with a double major in psychology and computer science, and later received her master's degree in business from Carnegie Mellon. After a notable career in product planning with HP, she retired to Sonoma county, eventually settling in Healdsburg. Fun facts: she has an incredible eye for local art and design; is a connoisseur of espresso coffee; and loves exploring and experiencing the world and humanity. If you ever get the chance to travel with her, do it! (Editor's note - Karla's picture was taken on a 100-mile bike ride!)

-B

Introducing New Member

Maureen McCalla



What would you do with an advanced degree in Psychology? Become a Program Director in the R&D division of Medtronic Industries of course. That is the path Maureen took, working 23 years with cross-functional, high performing teams to shepherd new medical devices from ideas to fruition. This road moved Maureen and her family to Santa Rosa from Minnesota 23 years ago and kept her fulfilled and engaged until last month when she happily retired. A year ago, sensing the coming of this transition, Maureen moved to Healdsburg to downsize, enjoy an area she has long loved and be closer to friends.

Maureen has three children and five grandchildren (three of which are nearby and two in Florida) and enjoys running, travel and hiking. And while she is new to retirement, she has already joined our hiking group and one of the Great Decisions groups as well. She is very much looking forward to being able to travel again as she lived in Mexico and Germany as a young person and is really comfortable in foreign lands.

-Hillary Kamour

If you are aware of any member who is ill, has had an operation or an accident, has passed away or had a close family member pass away, please notify Heidi Blumenthal so that a card can be sent to the person or family from AAUW. Email - heidiblu@aol.com. Phone - 707 433 7445.

The Grapevine is published online each month, except in July and August. Please submit articles and announcements in WORD or PAGES in Calibri font 12 pt, justified, 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 dldrldh@gmail.com.

