

The Grapevine

November 2020

Volume 36, Number 3



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & ENRICHING THOUGHT

Fall 2020 Courses – Registration begins September 1

The Fall Forum has been successfully launched on Zoom!

One of our fall film instructors, Terry Ebinger, was unfortunately unable to teach her course on Alfred Hitchcock due to an injury. We hope to offer her course in the future when she has recovered. Luckily, we were able to replace Terry with an equally fantastic film instructor, Professor Larry Eilenberg, who is currently teaching us a course entitled: Immigration to America: Its Story on Stage and Screen.

Registration for our upcoming winter classes will start November 15th.



Winter Forum Classes



Instructor: Professor Chris O'Sullivan

The Transformation of America:
A Social and Economic History of the United States
Tuesdays 10-11:45 AM, January 12 – February 16



Instructor: Professor Alex Saragoza

Mexican Immigration to the U.S:
A Bilateral Perspective
Thursdays 10-11:45 AM, January 14 – February 18

We will provide more information about our winter instructors and their classes in next month's *Grapevine* and on our AAUW webpage in November.

The Forum will continue via Zoom until it is safe to gather together at the Raven Theater. Thank you to our students, and everyone who has helped make this possible. These are challenging times, and we are grateful to be able to gather together in the pursuit of knowledge and also raise money for our programs.

—Celeste Plaister

President's Message



Soon you will receive our Branch annual fundraising letter. With safety precautions in place, we have been unable to hold our 2020 Homes Tour and most likely will have to cancel in 2021. Combined with the cancellation of Spring 2020 Forum, our ability to raise funds to support scholarships for local girls and women has been seriously curtailed. Your donations to our Annual Fund will be a critical factor if we are to continue these essential programs. This year we will need your help more than ever. But what about Membership Dues? Dues do not contribute directly toward our grants and scholarships. Our local branch keeps only 24% of annual dues, and the balance goes to AAUW National and State. This 24% covers Branch operating and program costs.

In October, your Board of Directors approved plans to establish a Tech Trek Alumni Group. The purpose of this group (TTAG) is to guide former Tech Trek campers through high school and set them up for future success by hosting community events and programs related to STEM areas. Karla Rosen, our Board STEM Director, will be the lead in this exciting new program. Thank you, Karla.

I want to end with a brief review of AAUW California priorities:

1. Empowerment of women in their careers
2. Leadership expansion through development of new branch leaders, and leadership skills in young women.
3. Visibility of the AAUW brand.
4. Grow AAUW California branch membership by increasing retention efforts and by attracting new members.

Through our local branch activities, we strive to align our efforts with the above. Please visit aauw-ca.org to view the AAUW California Connection newsletter.

With the anticipated end of the dreaded fire season of 2020, I hope all of you remain safe and healthy.

—Kate Van Ness

Political Action News

AAUW has a long tradition of advocating for positive societal change and political activism. Change is underway, and AAUW can be a part of that.

The 2020 Election: Responsibilities and Opportunities
Nancy Mahr, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

Responsibility: Vote and help others vote.



First you have to register. You can check your registration status online at the CA Secretary of State's website.

Then you have to vote. All registered voters in California will receive a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot in early October. You have choices for using that ballot:

1) Complete it and mail it in – if you do this, mail early. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 3. They have 17 days after that date to reach the Registrar's office, but the postmark must be by Nov 3. If you put it in a mailbox on Nov. 3, it may be postmarked in time. Be early!

2) Complete the ballot and drop it in an official drop box. Your Registrar of Voters will post locations of drop boxes. The Registrar regularly collects the ballots from the boxes.

3) Take your completed ballot to a Vote Center and hand it in.

You don't have to use the VBM ballot. You can vote in person and just hand in your unused ballot at a Vote Center.

→Get Ready to Vote

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/>

Opportunity: Candidates - Black women and other women of color

This election gives all of us an opportunity to expand our thinking and vision by making a conscious commitment to AAUW's work for racial justice and societal change.

The Center of Women and Politics (CAWP) reports that black women are nearly 8% of the U.S. population, but 4.3% of Congress – only 22 out of 435 Representatives and 1 out of 100 Senators. They are underrepresented in statewide executive's jobs and among mayors and city councils.

This November, in addition to federal, state and county elections, local elections are on the ballot – cities, school districts, and water districts. There may be black women or women of other ethnicities on the ballot in your area. You can support women of color who are running for office in your community, state, and nation.

→Read our statement on racism on the AAUW website

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-stands-against-racism/>

"Real and enduring change happens one step at a time."

RBG

By: Rebecca La Londe, Public Policy Director



Membership

Membership Update

Not renewed your membership for 20/21? Please check your inbox and your spam folder to search for your invoices which have been issued. Final notice to renew is October 31, 2020. Everyone needs to pay to play with your AAUW friends and participate in any of our activities (except, of course, The Forum).

Here is the link to renew your membership on the AAUW website:

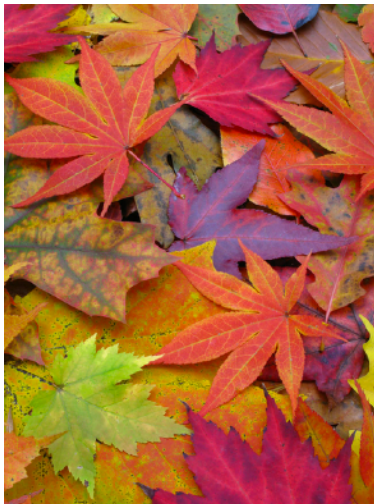
<https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net/renew-your-branch-membership/>.

There will be a change in the position of Membership Director as I am moving with my husband Dan, to the British Virgin Islands. Dan has accepted a position as VP Operations/General Manager of Oil Nut Bay on Virgin Gorda. Dan will be leaving in October and I will follow him in early December when the country opens up for tourism. We are keeping our Healdsburg home, and plan to retire here.

Patty McHugh will be stepping in to take over, and as many of you know Patty has held this position before, so you will be in good hands.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with AAUW and look forward to keeping in touch with you.

Kind Regards,
Barbara Reid



Member Bio

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

Laura Tyler

Laura moved to Healdsburg in June 2017 after retiring from a career in Human Resources. She joined AAUW that fall, saying that she wanted to work on the Homes Tour. Who knew that Laura would be chairing the tour by 2019? In addition to leading the 2019 and 2020 Homes Tours, she participates in a Great Decisions group and the third Monday book group, and has joined the Board this year as Director of Communications.

Laura also joined the chapter to meet people in her new home town, since her only contact at the time of her move was her sister (who has lived in Healdsburg since 2000). Laura was raised in Walnut Creek and went south to UCLA, moving back to the Bay Area after graduation. After some time living in San Francisco, she moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, living in southeast Michigan for 12 years, then moved to Houston, and moved back to Bay Area in 1995. Laura lived in Oakland for 16 years, and then in San Carlos before retiring. She's done moving!

She enjoys gardening, cooking, reading, and perhaps most, international adventure travel (unfortunately currently on hold, of course, due to the pandemic). A love of sewing has also resurfaced while spending so much time at home.

Laura and her sister have traveled to five of the seven continents, with a trip to Antarctica scheduled for 2023 (which will make six; Australia is still on the list). They hope to be able to resume their pursuit of unusual destinations before then, of course!

-Mary Fitzgerald, VP

Introducing New Membership

Susan Yavorsky



Welcome Susan back to AAUW Healdsburg. Susan, a long time Sonoma County resident retired from her bilingual elementary school teaching career back in 2013 and promptly joined AAUW. Soon after, however, “Grandma Sue” welcomed her first grandchild and became so involved being a grandmother, she found herself without the time to really get involved in AAUW activities.

Now in 2020, Susan finds she has some time to devote to AAUW and is back! She is looking forward to joining the hiking group, having discovered a love of hiking with the pandemic. Also known as Susana, she is a fluent Spanish speaker and a dispatcher for the North Bay Rapid Response Network — a group that provides support to members of our community who are targeted by ICE raids.

-Hillary Kambour

Remembering Janet Donaldson



Member Janet Donaldson passed away on October 6 from cancer.

She was part of the Social Activities sub-committee in charge of Lunch Bunch. Many enjoyed being with her, as we enjoyed eating around the world, and we ate well. She included some of the best Thai, Italian, and Spanish restaurants in Healdsburg, and with ease.

Her family shared how lucky she felt that they unexpectedly got to spend so much fun time together since the pandemic began (and the fires and the smoke)! For the last few weeks that they have all been together in Healdsburg, Janet looked out for the family—always insisting they take the “red card” (her debit card) whenever a family member went out for errands or food—and she kept everyone laughing, just like she always has.

Janet knew that the Coronavirus would prevent a gathering for a Celebration of Life, and she specifically did not want something planned months after she died. Instead, she would like friends to gather amongst themselves and raise a glass to her - “the ultimate party girl.” Janet said she would like all of you to toast to her years of friendship with you. And, she said, “Heaven knows, there are enough stories people could tell about me!”

Janet asked that, in lieu of flowers, you can donate to the North County Hospice in her name. Every person from this organization was incredible and loved Janet, no surprise.

Mailing address:
North County Hospice
PO Box 2074
Healdsburg, CA 95448

Or donate online at www.sonomacountyhospice.org

Janet was such a sweet easy-going woman, we will miss her.

-Linda Clark

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

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.