

# The Grapevine

February 2021

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## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & ENRICHING THOUGHT

Spring 2021 Courses – Registration begins February 15

Our Winter Forum has started with a bang, with over 250 students registering by the first week! Professors Chris O’Sullivan and Alex Saragoza are getting rave reviews. Our classes are on-line and are being recorded now, so students can easily view missed classes.



**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**



**Professor Alex Saragoza**

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

**Thursdays 10-11:45 AM**

**January 14 - February 18**

Registration for our Spring on-line classes will begin February 15<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars with our Spring Class dates:



Instructor: **Pete Elman**

Great Voices: An In-Depth Look at Six Iconic  
Rock and Rhythm and Blues Singers  
**Tuesdays 10-11:45 AM, March 16 – April 20**



Instructor: **Professor Heidi Chretien**

Leonardo and Michelangelo: Unfriendly Giants  
**Thursdays 10-11:45 AM, March 18 – April 22**

**If anyone needs help with Zoom Webinar OR registering for class, please call me anytime at 707-326-1999.** We will be posting more information about our Spring classes on our AAUW website in February. Thank you for supporting the Forum!

Celeste Plaister, **Forum Chair**

## President's Message



In spite of the violent assault on our Capitol on January 6, President Biden and Vice President Harris were inaugurated on January 20. It was an inspiration to watch the peaceful transfer of power on that day.

Thank you from your Board of Directors for your generous response to our Healdsburg Branch AAUW Fund Drive. Under Fundraising Director **Barbara Epstein's** skillful coordination, we have raised the largest amount ever. Your personal generosity along with the success of the online Forum will ensure that we can continue our programs in support of local girls and women.

Welcome to our new Web Master **Sally Tischler**. Sally has been apprenticing with our webpage guru **Nancy Haiston**. Nancy has deemed Sally ready to take over, which is high praise indeed. Do you know the origin of our website? It was started in the early 2000s by the remarkable **Carole Adams**, now deceased. Carole started with a modest program, and a few years later, Thanks to **Liz Loebel**, **Nancy Haiston**, and **Ellen Minter** (who moved to Palm Springs a few years ago) who brought it to the advanced program we have today. In 2015, our website went 'live' on the AAUW National website platform. Thank you, Nancy, for dragging us into the 21st century, and to Sally for continuing this effective means of communication. Well done.

I want to end with these inspiring words from Amanda Gorman, the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history on January 20 :

*« Somehow we weathered and witnessed  
A nation that isn't broken  
But simply unfinished  
For there is always light  
If only we're brave enough to see it  
If only we're brave enough to be it. »*

—Kate Van Ness

## Political Action News

### 2069? 2369? 2451? WHEN WILL THE GENDER PAY GAP BE CLOSED?

By Ginny Hatfield, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

How long will it take? What can we do to make it happen sooner rather than later? These are questions that AAUW has been grappling with for decades. As we mark Equal Pay Day on March 31<sup>st</sup>, perhaps there is hope that we can make progress in decreasing the gender pay gap in 2021, given a new administration that is committed to social justice and leveling the growing disparity between the haves and have nots. We also now have women in the highest echelons of national leadership; and as we all know, when women are in charge, things get done!

According to the 2020 update to AAUW's *The Simple Truth*, it will take white women until the year 2069 to achieve parity with men based on the projected earnings ratio compiled between 1988-2019. For women of color the numbers are even worse. Black women will have to wait until the year 2369 – 350 years – as their earnings ratio has only advanced a mere 7% from 1988-2019. And Latinas find themselves in the worse scenario as their earnings ratio has only increased 4% from 51% to 55% during this period of time, projecting their year of parity to 2451! (AAUW, *The Simple Truth* 2020 update)

The reasons for these disparities in the gender wage gap are known – and understanding what's causing the problem is the first step to meeting it head on. Members are urged to read the summary of *The Simple Truth* update on our National website which lays out the problem, its causes and solutions. [https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/10/SimpleTruth\\_1.8.pdf](https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/10/SimpleTruth_1.8.pdf)

AAUW is leading the charge to effectuate change, and you are part of the solution with the work your branches undertake on behalf of women and girls. The more we educate ourselves and others about the scope of this gender wage gap with programs like Start Smart, Work Smart, NCCWSL, etc., the more we chip away at the disparity. What is your branch doing to make a difference in the Gender Pay Gap? Let us know what creative ideas you have come up with to spread the word in these days of social distancing, we'll share them on the web (send to [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)).

-Rebecca La Londe, Public Policy Director

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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](mailto: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](mailto:dldrldh@gmail.com).