

The Grapevine

January 2021

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BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & ENRICHING THOUGHT

Winter 2021 Courses – Registration begins November 15

Don't forget to register for our Winter Forum classes



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**

FORUM CLASSES ARE NOW BEING RECORDED

If you miss a Forum class you can view a recording of the class any time during the week following the actual class. Instructions on how to access these recordings will be sent to all registered students after each class is presented.

Now if you can't make the 10AM class time, you won't have to miss the eloquent Chris O'Sullivan Ph.D. or the award winning UC Berkeley professor, Alex Saragoza Ph.D., emeritus. For a full description of their bios and courses please go to our AAUW web page (healdsburg-ca.aauw.net), where you can register for the courses.

If anyone needs help with Zoom Webinar OR registering for class please call me anytime at 707-326-1999.

We have posted Professor Zaragoza's class syllabus on our web page along with his suggested reading list. We will email both professors' syllabus and reading lists to registered students prior to class.

We are all so happy to begin the New Year with such enlightening Forum classes and at the same time continue to raise money for our important AAUW programs.

Best wishes in the new year and hope to "see" you at our Zoom Forum classes!

-Celeste Plaister, Forum Chair



President's Message



I hope you celebrated the Holidays remaining safe and healthy. Welcome to 2021.

As we leave 2020, a strange and terrible year, let's consider some positives :

- Fall Forum happened even when it was necessary to find a last minute course replacement.
- Many members stepped up to donate to our Annual Fund, helping us toward our fundraising goal.
- Plans are proceeding to reformulate Tech Trek for 2021.
- Scholarships to deserving girls and women have been allocated as in the past.
- Book groups, hiking groups, bridge groups, and Great Decisions discussions are ongoing. We are a group always interested in learning and staying active.
- In December, 58 members joined together on our Mingle and Jingle event, confirming our desire to stay connected.

All of this was achieved in the face of a deadly pandemic, lockdowns, fires, and more lockdowns. Thank you for staying the course.

Winter Forum 2021 has an outstanding lineup of professors. Be sure to sign up for these compelling classes.

With Covid 19 vaccines approved and likely available to us this spring and summer, a return to normal appears to be on the horizon.

I look forward to seeing you IN PERSON in 2021.

—Kate Van Ness

Political Action News

Human Trafficking

By Kit Hein, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

January 11, 2021 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. AAUW California supports efforts to combat Human Trafficking, as noted in our Public Policy Priorities: “Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including ...human trafficking...in homes, schools, workplaces and communities...”

Human Trafficking is the third largest organized criminal activity in the world. Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, with an estimated number of victims in the millions. Whether for labor or sex, men, women, and children are manipulated through force, fraud and coercion.

Research shows that people of color, especially the Black community, are more likely to experience some form of sex trafficking. Racial and economic biases drive both social and legal presumptions of “victims” having chosen their situation.

Law enforcement efforts against human trafficking are stronger today than in 2017, but still inadequate. Globally, definitions of human trafficking vary from country to country. Even using the term “slavery” is met with opposition in cases of forced marriages and cross border smuggling.

In California, legislation in the past few years includes support for victims, updating school health curriculum, and addressing hospitality industry training. But legislation is not the key unless the public is educated as to the enormity of the issues, both locally and globally. Local branches of AAUW continue to provide community awareness events to educate the public. Please join Santa Cruz County Branch on January 11, 2021 at 1pm for a Zoom webinar to learn more. Access the branch website <https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net/> for more information and an invitation to this event.

-Rebecca La Londe, Public Policy Director

Mission-Based Programs

Holiday Supplies for Teachers

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our AAUW members, we were able to give \$10 Starbucks gift cards to every staff member at West Side, Healdsburg Elementary, and Fitch Mountain Elementary School. The principals were very appreciative of the supplies that were donated as well. I would like to thank **Pat Bertapelle** for her help in organizing West Side and for her great ideas and follow through.

I am so incredibly grateful to be a part of our AAUW organization, whose members are so willing to support our educators, especially at this time.

-Beth Wolk, Mission-Based Programs Chair

AAUW Al Garren Renewal Scholarship Awards

Seven Sonoma County women, planning to graduate this academic year with bachelor degrees in nursing, sociology, sustainable agriculture, business psychology and computer science, are the recipients of our 2020 Healdsburg AAUW Al Garren Renewal Scholarships. The awardees are Emily Ashley, Samantha De Roque, Olivia Harvey, Michelle Lopez-Kronicz, Elizabeth Quiroz, Jamie Smith and Ellie Whiteley.

Our Al Garren Renewal Scholarships are intended to help previous recipients of our SRJC re-entry awards complete their degrees. They were made possible by the 2018 receipt of a \$250,000 donor-directed grant from the San Francisco Foundation's Al Garren Fund. The late Alper A. Garren was a brilliant, compassionate and widely-loved Northern California particle physicist, who gave generously of his time and resources to provide educational opportunities to promising students. We awarded five scholarships last year, and with this year's seven new grants, we will have helped twelve local women attain their educational goals.

Our recipients have overcome many challenges, often being the first in their families to attend college. Their studies and lives have been greatly affected by the pandemic. Classes went on-line only and it was often hard to get the required textbooks in a timely fashion. Three of our awardees are in nursing programs and some worked on the front lines, in hospitals and nursing homes, risking exposure to Covid-19. Our grantees with children had to home-school their little ones while attending classes themselves. Even with all the obstacles presented by the pandemic, they are leaders in their communities, always willing to help others.

Speaking on behalf of our Committee, one of the highlights of this difficult year was to be able to award scholarships to such deserving women. We are sure these women will enrich the lives of all they will encounter as they move forward in their careers.

Our Scholarship Committee included Cathy Chiminello, Sue Finan, Charlene Luks, Phil Wright and myself.

Kay Kohler, Chair
Al Garren Scholarship Committee



Reading Rocks



Reading Rocks is an **AAUW** program that pairs **AAUW** members with a teacher to assist first grade students as they learn to read. Most **Reading Rocks** volunteers read one-on-one with students 1-2 days a week for 60-90 minutes. The schools that currently participate in this program are Healdsburg Elementary School and Westside Elementary School.

Shally Schultz has been the coordinator of **Reading Rocks** for several years. **Reading Rocks** began with Healdsburg Elementary School, Westside School joined the program a few years ago, and this year a third school joins our program, Geyserville Elementary School. **Shally**, a retired Reading Specialist, spent her career dedicated to teaching children to read. Upon retirement, her dedication to our **AAUW** program that includes having volunteers listen to and encourage young students as they learn to read, continued to support **AAUW's Reading Rocks Program**. **Reading Rocks** is well received by the first grade (and now some second grade) teachers, and looked forward to by the students.

In addition to volunteers working with children, **Reading Rocks** has gifted books to first graders in December each year. **Shally** also implemented this Book Gifting Program, to affirm and support these beginning readers, as well as knowing that for some children this would be the first book they have ever owned.

Shally passed on her Reading Rocks responsibilities to **Diane Burnley** in June, 2020. This year due to COVID-19, **Reading Rocks** volunteers have not been able to meet with the students. However, we were able to continue the Book Gifting. This Fall, books were purchased for six first grade classes. In December, each First Grade teacher received 20-25 books for her students and one read-aloud book for the classroom library. (See the photos of a sampling of these books.) During the week of December 7th, **Diane Burnley** (Healdsburg Elementary), **Pat Bertapelle** (West Side School), and **Beth Wolk** (Geyserville Elementary) delivered these books to the **Reading Rocks' Schools**. Each school expressed its gratitude for the generosity of **Healdsburg AAUW** and our continued support for first graders and their learning to read.



Geyserville Elementary School

We are currently also looking at the possibilities for a virtual **Reading Rocks Program**. Two of our members, **Gail Wright** and **Naomi Ramsden**, have been working with their Healdsburg Elementary second grade teachers, supporting the reading programs virtually with small groups of students once a week. **Pat Bertapele** is working on a virtual Reading Rocks model with Westside School's first grade teacher. **Diane Burnley** and **Beth Wolk** will begin working on virtual programs for first graders at Healdsburg Elementary and Geyserville Elementary in January. We look forward to these possibilities, and continuing the **Reading Rocks Program** that began so many years ago!

-**Diane Burnley**, Coordinator of Reading Rocks



West Side School

First Grade Teacher, Ms Dalton, AAUW Pat Bertapelle, and Principal/Superintendent, Ms. Menlove

Membership

Introducing New Member

Ginna Zoellner



The smartest decision Ginna and her husband made in their “entire lives” was to spend 6 months a year on the Mediterranean in Nice. They did this for 15 years (after early retirement), spending the other 6 months in their Evanston, IL home. When Ginna’s husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, Ginna thought it best to move to California to have the support of her daughter and her partner. They began in Novato, where they lived for four years, then Oakmont which didn’t feel right, but finally found the perfect condo in Windsor in November of 2020.

Ginna went back to school to earn a CPA a bit later in life, when her kids were teenagers. After two years in public accounting, she ended her career working as the Director of Finance for the Regional Organ Bank of Illinois. Ginna adored this work as she worked with brilliant, educated and compassionate professionals and she was able to help save lives in the process. She still gets choked up when she recalls meeting donees and seeing for herself the impact her organization had on so many individuals and their families.

Now new to Windsor, Ginna is looking to make friends, join a book group and perhaps get involved politically in AAUW’s public policy committee. She is also interested in meeting with other caregivers for support and guidance.

-Hillary Kambour

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.