

# The Grapevine

April 2021

Volume 36, Number 8



## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & ENRICHING THOUGHT

Spring 2021 Courses – Registration begins February 15

Our inspiring Spring Forum classes have begun! Remember all the classes are recorded, so you won't miss anything by registering late. Students will have access to all recorded classes through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

To register and learn more about the classes and our instructors go to our AAUW website: [www.healdsburg-ca.aauw.net](http://www.healdsburg-ca.aauw.net).



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



Once registered you will be e-mailed a Zoom link which you will click on in order to join the classes. You will use the same link to sign into your class each week.

If anyone needs help with registering or accessing the Zoom Webinar site please call me anytime at 707-326-1999.

Thanks for supporting the Forum and our AAUW programs and scholarships!

See you in class,  
**Celeste Plaister**, Forum chair

## *President's Message*



As we move into spring, your board of directors nominating committee has been working to fill open Board positions for 2021-2022. Although progress has occurred in the vaccination process, we will not be able to enjoy an in-person May Garden Party/Installation luncheon. We will need to vote for nominees through our e-blast process in May.

Here are the proposed nominees:

President: Kate Van Ness  
Past President: Linda Clark  
Vice President: Laura Tredinnick  
Secretary: Nancy Andrews  
Treasurer: David Hoppes  
Communications Director: Laura Tyler  
Fund Raising Director: Dena Cochran  
Membership Director: Janice Sexton  
Mission Based Programs Director: Beth Wolk  
Public Policy Director: Rebecca La Londe  
Scholarships Director: Julie Hanamura  
Social Activities Director: Kerry Elkind  
STEM Director: Patty McHugh

Thank you to the departing board of directors. Your effort to keep things together and moving forward has ensured our future success. Welcome to the incoming directors. I look forward to working together as our vibrant AAUW branch can resume more in-person activities.

I hope all of you have already received, or are in the process of receiving, the COVID vaccine. The possibility of a face-to-face September kick-off party is on the horizon. I look forward to seeing all or most of you at that time.

**—Kate Van Ness**

## Membership

### New Members

#### Kimberly Bender



Kimberly moved to Sonoma County from the Bay Area in March of 2020. She first in Healdsburg and later moved to her current home in Sebastopol. Kimberly graduated from UC Berkeley, then was a Producing Fellow at the American Film Institute in L.A.

While producing films in LA, Kimberly developed a skill for raising money. She has since moved through various arts organizations (Berkeley Art Museum, San Francisco Film Society) and social justice institutions (Glide Foundation in S.F.) and tackled the daunting task of raising funds to build a medical clinic and fire station in Bolinas. Kimberly is now the Executive Director of the Healthcare Foundation Northern Sonoma County.

Meanwhile, Kimberly raised three children — a daughter and two sons — and is excited for her first grandchild who will be nearby in Bolinas. She is an avid writer, having crafted screenplays, short stories and a memoir. Her family and career made pursuing publication challenging, but she looks forward to furthering this passion in her retirement. Additionally, she has discovered a love of cycling and kayaking here in beautiful Sonoma County.

AAUW offers Kimberly primarily the chance (especially post-COVID-19) to meet women in Sonoma County and to volunteer in some capacity to further AAUW's mission.

#### Alma O'Brien



Inspired by recent retirement as well as the lockdown of COVID-19, Alma and her husband, Mark, decided it was time for a change. After 27 years of being weekend warriors from their Mill Valley home to their East Santa Rosa, Hayfork Ranch, they made the leap to full timers on their ranch. Their two sons, both residing in San Francisco, Paddy (22) and Barry (25) have now become the ranch weekend warriors!

Alma is a San Francisco native, former Mill Valley resident and a graduate of Sonoma State University. Alma recently retired from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy after 20 years. She started her career at the Conservancy developing the wholesale program in the Visitor Services division and in the past 5 years, she was Director of Food and Beverage for the three Conservancy Cafes on Crissy Field and Golden Gate Bridge.

In her spare time, Alma is a prolific volunteer and successful fund raiser. She enjoys the group dynamics of a fund raising project and bringing awareness to a needed cause. She looks forward to a few AAUW fund raising projects.

Newly retired, Alma is enjoying hiking, yoga, learning to ride a horse, gardening, cooking and meeting new friends in Sonoma County. Already involved with the AAUW hiking group, Alma is on her way to a fun and active 2021.



Tyra Benoit



After losing their house in Wikiup as a result of the Tubbs Fire, Tyra and her husband moved to Idaho to be near their grandchildren. But Idaho is NOT Sonoma County, so they soon found themselves back home, now in Healdsburg, where they are in the last stages of remodeling their replacement home.

You may recognize Tyra from the Forum class she taught in 2017 on the “Ebb and Flow of Civilizations.” After teaching for thirty years at both Paradise Intermediate School and Butte Community College, Tyra moved to Santa Rosa in 2007 and became Dean of the Arts, Communications, and Social and Behavioral Sciences Division at Santa Rosa Junior College until she retired in 2013. During her professional career, she developed new courses in women’s studies and world history. After 2013, she continued to teach history part time at SRJC and through the OLLI program at SSU until she lost her home library in the fire.

Well-versed in the history of climate change, Tyra went on to be trained through the Climate Reality Project in 2019. She now gives talks in California and Idaho and has worked tirelessly with a number of the County’s many environmental non-profits. She recently co-founded a Sonoma County hub of Arm in Arm for Climate and is working county-wide to help Sonoma jurisdictions, including Healdsburg, implement the Climate Emergency Resolutions they have passed. She is involved with Healdsburg Climate Action.

In her spare time, Tyra enjoys gardening, traveling, hiking, and cooking. She is really looking forward to making connections with women in her new home.

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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. Remember that the Grapevine is available to the general public, so be cautious about including your personal information. Send to Donna Riley at [dldrldh@gmail.com](mailto:dldrldh@gmail.com).