

The Grapevine

September 2021

Volume 37, Number 1



**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE
& ENRICHING THOUGHT**
Fall 2021 Courses – Registration begins September 1

Don't forget to register for our exciting Fall Forum classes! To see a complete description of the courses, go to our AAUW web page [here](#). All classes will be recorded. If you miss a class, you will be able to watch the class at a later date.



Instructor: Heidi Saleh, Ph.D.
Women of Ancient Egypt
Dispel Myths, Learn True Contributions
Tuesdays 10-11:45 AM, October 5 – November 9
This class is to be presented online only

The weekly topics will include:

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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Oct. 5</u> | Introduction to the Role of Women in Ancient Egypt |
| <u>Oct. 12</u> | Hatshepsut |
| <u>Oct. 19</u> | Nefertiti |
| <u>Oct. 26</u> | Cleopatra |
| <u>Nov. 2</u> | Hypatia |
| <u>Nov. 9</u> | Concluding Remarks on the Role of Influential Ancient Egyptian Women |



To learn more about Professor Heidi Saleh, see her fascinating lecture on how beauty was defined in the ancient world. Watch the YouTube video [here](#).



Instructor: Terry Ebinger

Deep Hitchcock:
Symbol and Psychology in Shot and Scene
Thursdays 10-11:45 AM, October 7 – November 11
**Presented at Raven Performing Arts Center or online depending on the
status of the Covid epidemic.**

We are so happy to have Terry Ebinger back to teach her fascinating film course which will focus on six Alfred Hitchcock films. Terry recommends that, for a richer experience, you watch these films prior to each class. The movies can be found on Amazon Prime. **We hope to present this class live at the Raven Performing Arts center, but may decide to present the class online only, depending on the status of the COVID epidemic. We will keep you updated regarding this decision by email as the date grows closer. In either event, the class will be recorded so you will be able to view each class from the comfort of your home.**

The weekly topics will include:

<u>Oct. 7</u>	The 39 Steps
<u>Oct. 14</u>	The Lady Vanishes
<u>Oct. 21</u>	Foreign Correspondent
<u>Oct. 28</u>	Shadow of a Doubt
<u>Nov. 4</u>	Notorious
<u>Nov. 11</u>	Strangers on a Train



Register [here](#) today to attend the Forum and to help AAUW fund vital educational programs and scholarships.

-Celeste Plaister, Forum Chair
-celestepiaister@gmail.com

President's Message



Welcome to the new AAUW year! I hope all of you have enjoyed your summer of emergence from the long COVID year. Although we need to be especially prudent because of the Delta variant, we are going forward with exciting plans for the upcoming year. On August 19, we celebrated together at our Summer Picnic, our first in-person event since March 2020. Thank you **Dena Lash** for making it happen. It was a bittersweet evening after the tragic accident that befell member Ann Mahoney's family. **Judy Edmonds**, Steve Cutler's Trivia Contest cohort, put together a masterful set of questions. These were clever and every bit as diabolical as anything Steve would have created. Thank you, Judy. With great regret and with the unanimous support of your Board of Directors, I have canceled our September 8 Kickoff Event. The crowd size combined with the Delta variant's rampage were too much to safely continue. I am so sorry to miss you in person. Zoom will be our replacement venue. Details will soon follow via eBlast.

I want to reconfirm with both returning and new members why we joined AAUW. We are part of a nationwide organization focused on the advancement of gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Through your contributions of time and money, we are able to provide life-changing scholarships for women and girls. Read the Scholarship Success Stories in the May, June, and September Grapevine to learn how important our contributions are to the long term success of these remarkable women.

Our Branch also offers the amazing Tech Trek experience to girls going into the eighth grade. This summer we sent 13 girls to virtual Tech Trek camp as the in-person experience was canceled due to COVID. Early feedback has been very positive. Five AAUW Healdsburg Tech Trek alumni were selected as Junior Coaches! Former Board Director **Mickey Sarquis** was selected to teach a workshop on Exploring Water at its Surface. Former Board Director **Karla Rosen** was an adult coach. One new member, **Mary Barsony**, was a workshop coach at camps 2 and 3. More information will be provided in future Grapevine editions. We should all be proud of this significant work funded by your hard work and generous contributions. Thank you!

In addition to these accomplishments, we have a wide array of interest groups and activities: book groups, hiking groups, bridge groups, Great Decisions, Forum lecture series, Lunch Bunch, Happy Hour, Wine and Dine, and Branch-wide events. Through these activities, you have the opportunity to meet and engage with a group of interesting women. No wonder you have joined AAUW!

-Kate Van Ness

Mission-Based Programs



Public Policy

Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller,

Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: LEGISLATURE IS CURRENTLY IN SUMMER RECESS

Key Dates: July 14th was the last day for Policy Committees (e.g Health, Education) to act. The Legislature's summer recess began July 16th and reconvened on August 16th. August 27th was the last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills.

- AB92- a bill related to preschool and childcare services and fees that we are co-sponsoring, is now in Senate Appropriations.
- Of our initial list of 39 bills on which AAUW California took positions or is watching, one has been signed by the Governor (re-hiring employees displaced by the pandemic) and 18 are still active.

State Budget was Signed by Governor Newsom

A one-time influx of federal funds plus unanticipated California tax revenue increases have enabled addressing some issues that will significantly improve childcare and education.

The budget:

- Adds 200,000 more subsidized childcare spaces, which would almost double the state's total supply.
- Increases the amount the state pays to childcare providers for each subsidized child, (although the details have yet to be ironed out).
- Creates transitional kindergarten (TK) for all 4-year-olds.
- Extends the school year and school day for all low-income elementary students.
- Provides \$115 million to develop pathways for an associate degree in which students don't have to spend money on textbooks.
- Provides state-funded breakfast and lunches for all students, starting this fall.
- Invests \$2.8 billion to turn about a third of the state's 10,000 schools into community schools that provide health care, family services, and after-school programs through local partnerships.
- Provides \$4 billion for a mental health and behavior system that will provide screenings, counseling, and therapy from birth through age 25.



Mission Based Programs

Mission Based Programs consist of committees that work to support our community, particularly in the field of education, for students in preschool through high school. Unfortunately, due to the fact that schools are opening with restrictions due to COVID, most of our current volunteer activities are on hold. We are currently exploring ideas as to how we can continue to help in the world of virtual education. *Please let me know if you have any thoughts.*

Here is a list of our programs and chairs:

Future Prep brings people who work in a variety of career fields 2-3 times a year to students in both Healdsburg High School and Cloverdale High School. **Diane Bartleson** is the chair for Cloverdale, and **Michelle Regan** is the chair for Healdsburg High School.

Reading Rocks is a program in which AAUW volunteers read one-on-one with primary students at West Side School and Healdsburg Elementary. It is one of our oldest programs and one that is loved by the school community. **Diane Burnley** is the chair for Healdsburg Elementary and **Pat Bertapelle** is the chair for West Side School.

Holiday Books for First Grade Students: Every year our branch purchases a book for every first-grade student at West Side and Healdsburg Elementary. Last year, we included the small first grade at Geyserville Elementary. Each child's book has a special book plate in the front, and we also give a special book to each teacher. **Diane Burnley** will coordinate this along with Reading Rocks.

Holiday Supplies for Teachers: **Cathy Mock** is the chair of this committee. This year, we are going to ask members to donate ten dollars, and we will use the money to purchase Amazon gift cards for each school that we support, Healdsburg Elementary and West Side. We will give them to the principals to purchase the supplies that they need.

Beth Wolk

Mission Based Programs Director

blwolk@gmail.com



Social Programs

Social Committee Report:



Time to Reconnect

I'm sure that everyone has noticed a profound lack of social activities over the past 20 months. We really miss those Happy Hours, Wine N Dines, Lunch Bunches and other cultural events.

Well, we're back in full swing. The theme this year is "Reconnect." In July, we hosted our first Happy Hour at the Leo Steen Winery. We had a great turnout, and thanks to everyone who brought delicious treats. It was terrific to reconnect and see faces we have missed throughout the COVID lockdown.

In August, many of you joined us for the AAUW summer picnic in Shiloh Regional Park. Good food, great company, and lots of trivia made sure everyone had a great time!

On September 17th, we're planning our first outdoor Wine N Dine. If you're interested in hosting one of these fun events in your backyard or attending one as a guest, please contact **Diane Burnley**: call or text (925) 286-1590 or email dburnley@aol.com. If hosting, be sure to indicate how many guests you are able to accommodate.

We are hoping to kick off our Lunch Bunch program in mid- to late September. More to come.

And we have a lot more fun in the works. For example, in September we're hosting a **Flash Coffee Klatch** in the Healdsburg Plaza. We'll meet at Black Oak coffee at 9:30, grab a cup of java and head over to the Plaza for fun and frolic. Keep your eyes open for more to come on September social events.

We have a great Social Committee that is very excited about providing many safe opportunities to reconnect. If you have any ideas or suggestions about future social activities, please contact: kerry@elkindgroup.com. For now though, we hope you all will get out and show up at the upcoming events. See you all at the 9/17 Wine N Dine.

-Kerry Elkind, Social Committee Chair



Hiking Program



New Monday Short Hiking Group

We now have a short hiking group on Monday mornings. Please join us. Hikes vary from 2-6 miles.

Contact **Dena Lash** to get on the list. denalash@gmail.com

Volunteers Still Needed!

As we wind down from the summer, we still need someone – or two – to manage the chapter’s social media presence.

Scarlett Wood, our social media maven for many years, has decided to “retire” – at least from the rigors of Facebook and Instagram. The Communications team is looking for someone to take the reins of the branch’s online presence.

If you are interested in taking this on, and contributing to our mission in an important way, please drop me a line – lauramtyler@earthlink.net. Thank you!

Laura Tyler, Communications Director



Scholarship Success Stories



Megan Waterman's Story

2011 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC Scholarship

Since I can remember, I have gravitated towards children and enjoy encouraging their development. In fact, when I was in junior high in the early 1980s, I volunteered at a preschool across the street, and this launched my desire to teach. After graduating from high school I took my first full-time job as a preschool teacher at A Special Place Preschool in Santa Rosa. While I loved my preschool job, sadly, I could earn more as a live-in nanny. Turns out that this was an excellent career path for me, as the individual attention and nurturing I could provide the children have created bonds that have lasted a lifetime.

As life would have it, in 2007, I was diagnosed with a devastating disease that brought my life to a halt. While physically debilitating, this period of time eventually led to immense mental and physiological growth as I realized that my passion for education and teaching had not yet been fulfilled. So at the age of 40, I set on a journey to become an elementary school teacher.

First I had to complete my Associate's Degree in early childhood studies at SRJC which ended up taking me about 10 years to accomplish because of work and life getting in the way. I was ready academically to transfer to Sonoma State, but financially was another issue. It was then in 2011 that the Healdsburg AAUW branch awarded this middle-aged woman the biggest educational gift possible. A hefty scholarship that allowed me to pay for books, tuition/fees, and other expenses I faced. I can't say too often just how much this scholarship meant to me, both financially and personally. The pride and recognition bestowed upon me provided a strong foundation for my continued growth.

In 2012, I graduated from the Liberal Studies Hutchins program at Sonoma State University with a concentration in elementary education. From there I moved to the University of San Francisco to get my teaching credential and subsequently stayed for another year to complete a masters degree in Teaching Reading. In doing so, I can happily report that I became the first person in my family to complete this level of education.

I then followed the typical job path teaching in the area public school system. But after three years, I decided that my passion and calling was more closely aligned with small group and individualized education as a homeschool teacher, tutor, and customized-special instructor of reading and math, roles I joyously continue to provide to my clients, their families, and my community of Sebastopol.

THANK YOU Healdsburg AAUW! You have made a difference in my life as well as all those children and families I have touched along the way. (The photo is from my Master's graduation from USF in 2015.)

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. 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.