

# The Grapevine

October 2021

Volume 37, Number 2



**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](#). Both classes will be online and recorded. If you miss a class you will be able to watch the class at a later date.



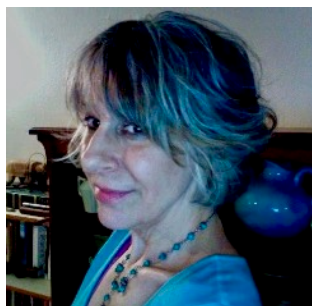
Instructor: Heidi Saleh, Ph.D.  
Women of Ancient Egypt  
Dispel Myths, Learn True Contributions  
**Tuesdays 10-11:45 AM, October 5 – November 9**  
**This class is to be presented online only**

The weekly topics will include:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <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](#). (Start this video at about 18 min into the clip, when she is introduced. The lecture lasts about 1 hour).



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 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. Also, each registered student will receive an email from Marisa at So Eventful with links to the movies. So register early so you can start watching these amazing movies!

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**  
-celesteplaister@gmail.com



## *President's Message*



Our September 8 kickoff event was very successful, with 48 members in attendance. Thank you to our Zoom hostess, **Celeste Plaister**. And congratulations to our event co-chairs, **Kim Alexander** and **Claire Burdett**, who shifted seamlessly from planning an in-person event to an online event. Each Board Director described his/her area of responsibility, then we enjoyed appearances from both Fall Forum professors. Have you signed up for Forum yet? We then shared “What’s New” moments with each other. If you were unable to join us, detailed minutes from the meeting are already posted on our website.

On August 24, your Board of Directors held its annual retreat at **Rebecca La Londe’s** beautiful home. We took time to learn about each other, worked out our upcoming budget, and determined our strategic goals for 2021-2022. Our goals are:

- Increase our branch membership by 40 new members.
- Reinvigorate the Spring Fundraising Event, with a monetary goal of \$20,000.

My hope is that we can move forward through the perils of COVID to reach our goals and enjoy our times together—either in person or online.

The Co-President of the AAUW Petaluma Branch has gathered leaders of Petaluma, Novato, Marin, Santa Rosa, and Healdsburg to meet on Zoom. Our purpose is to share information on our respective efforts. This collaboration will be useful to all of us.

We continue to be in wildfire season. Are you and your Go Bags ready? Click [here](#) for complete information from Sonoma County.

**-Kate Van Ness**

**How do I locate a member’s address or phone number?** Member addresses, email addresses and phone numbers can be found on the website under Members Only. MEMBERSHIP -> Members Only -> enter password -> Members Only Page. If you don’t have the password, send a request via the “Contact Us” button in the righthand column.

## Mission-Based Programs



AAUW Healdsburg has been sending rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to Tech Trek, a STEM camp at Stanford, since its beginning in 1998. Despite the pandemic, AAUW California determined that Tech Trek would not go dark in 2021! It was transformed from 12 college campus residential camps to three 5-day virtual camps with over 600 California girls, 200 coaches and 50 AAUW California branches. AAUW Healdsburg sent 13 Tech Trekkers from 4 local schools: 5 from Cloverdale's Washington Middle School, 1 from Geyserville New Tech Academy, 5 from Healdsburg Junior High, and 2 from Windsor's Cali Calmecac Language Academy. In addition, several AAUW Healdsburg members and Tech Trek Alumnae volunteered to be on the camp staff. There were five 2018 Tech Trek Alumnae 'Near-Peer' Junior Coaches, 2 AAUW Adult Coaches (**Mary Barsony** and **Karla Rosen**) and 1 Workshop Instructor (**Mickey Sarquis**).



Campers spent the mornings in the Wearable Technology project-based course creating robotic hats. They spent 15 hours coding and designing circuits to build hats with moving parts and lights to artistically display their strengths, values, interests and sustainable goals. [Videos of Healdsburg AAUW Tech Trekkers Presenting Their Robotic Hat Invention](#)

In the afternoons and evenings, women STEM role models delivered inspirational talks and interactive, hands-on workshops. These ranged from the Surface Tension of Water (led by our own Mickey Sarquis), to the future of nuclear fusion, to collecting DNA samples, to making pizza. There was even a workshop for both the campers and their parents on preparing for a future career in STEM.

Virtual Tech Trek required new logistics for distance learning. Science kits were assembled and delivered to

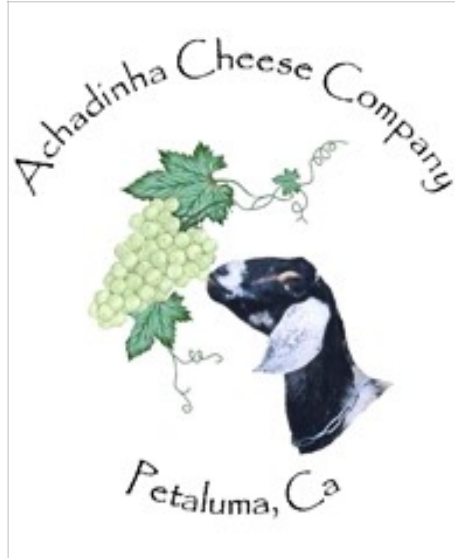
the campers' homes before the start of camp. Zoom was used for both large group presentations and breakout sessions where near-peer and adult coaches worked with the campers in small groups.

The hard work and dedication of the Tech Trek selection and fundraising committees was inspiring and showed our Trekkers what is possible, even during a pandemic. THANK YOU:

- o **Liz Loebel** for stepping in at the last minute to chair the Tech Trek selection committee,
- o Selection committee members - **Diane Meyers**, **Patty McHugh**, **Maureen Macalla**, and **Barbara Epstein** – for being the virtual camp trailblazers, and
- o **Barbara Epstein** for chairing the Fundraising Committee.

THANK YOU: E&M Electric and Machinery, Prudential Financial, Rotary Club of Healdsburg (Noon), **Heidi Blumenthal**, **Mary Lee McCune**, and **Pat** and **Greg Nelson** for your generous donations that made it possible to send 13 Trekkers to this amazing Virtual Tech Trek camp.

## *Social Programs*



### *Join us for a tour of Achadinha Cheese Company*

**Date: Wednesday, Oct. 13**

**Time: 10:15 a.m. (tour starts at 10:30)**

**Cost: \$32 per person/pay at tour**

**Lunch: Bring your picnic lunch**

**Space is limited to 45 people so RSVP only if you want to take part.**

**Car pooling information will come later**

**RSVP: [denalash@gmail.com](mailto:denalash@gmail.com) by Oct 10**

### *Fresh, farmstead cheese*

The Achadinha (Osh-a-deen-a) Cheese Company is a family operated ranch lead by Jim and Donna Pacheco along with their four children William, Daniel, Elizabeth and David. This family tradition began 3 generations ago in Achadinha, Portugal and Vallejo, California with both of Jim's grandfathers milking cows.

In 1955, Jim's parents branched out on their own and eventually, in 1969, they ended up in Petaluma where the Pachecos are currently milking cows and goats to make their own farmstead cheeses. They are also raising cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, chickens, dogs, cats and ducks. Discover what makes their cheeses special and why they are proud to bring them direct from the ranch to their customers.

RSVP: **Dena Lash** - [denalash@gmail.com](mailto:denalash@gmail.com)

Please RSVP by October 10



AAUW FALL HAPPY HOUR  
SAVE THE DATE

ORSI Family Winery

*November 4, 2021*

*5-7 PM*

*Details to follow*



## Scholarship Success Stories

### Shayla Salzman's Story

2010 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC Scholarship



I received the Healdsburg American Association of University Women Scholarship when I was finishing my Associate Degree at Santa Rosa Junior College. My background up until then had led me to believe that I was not academic material. The support of the Healdsburg chapter of the AAUW was one of many things that changed the direction of my life and directly impacted my future career. I am now a UC Berkeley and Harvard graduate, and I completed a National Science Foundation Post-Doctorate at Cornell. Prior to arriving at Santa Rosa Junior College, I was a high school dropout who had

spent years working in organic agriculture. I began attending SRJC in order to participate in their sustainable agriculture certificate program. In my first semester I took a Plant Science course, followed by a Soil Science course, and I fell in love with science. I feel that organic agriculture is really all about understanding and manipulating plant-insect interactions and, at SRJC, I began to see the science behind those interactions. Through the support of faculty, my goal changed from a certificate program to an Associate Degree and eventually to university transfer. Because I was a high school dropout, I had to take many remedial courses that did not even count for college credit but were necessary stepping stones for the required university transfer courses. In these classes, I saw many people like myself: those that had chosen to make their lives harder by returning to school in order to achieve a goal that was often many years away. This was a long road and could have been a time full of uncertainty and doubt. The support of AAUW showed me that I did belong and that I could succeed. Seeing that women I looked up to and aspired to be like some day supported me and believed in me was exactly the emotional support that I needed to continue on my path.

In 2012, I transferred to UC Berkeley where I graduated in two years with a Bachelor of Science in Genetics and Plant Biology. I then worked at a plant science lab at UC Berkeley for eight months before taking a job in an entomology (insect science) lab at Harvard University. At the end of that year, I was accepted to the Organismic and Evolutionary Biology PhD program at Harvard where I continued to study plant-insect interactions. My Ph.D. research focused on the species interactions of a group of endangered plants called *Zamia* cycads. During my Ph.D. study, I married and had a daughter who is now five years old. I am currently a post-doctoral researcher supported by a National Science Foundation Fellowship at Cornell University. I am continuing my study of *Zamia* cycads and their symbiotic insects. I hope to find a faculty position at the end of this fellowship where I can continue researching, teaching and mentoring. Through this path and the people that have supported me along the way, I have learned that I do belong in academia and I have truly found my home in the world. It is my goal to pay forward what was given to me and make sure that everyone feels welcome and supported in academia. I cannot thank the women of the Healdsburg Chapter of the American Association of Women enough for giving me that when I most needed it.

## AAUW Al Garren Renewal Scholarship Awards

“Thank you so very much!” “This will help me. During the pandemic, it was more of a stress financially.” “Your organization is appreciated.” “You truly are helping me on my educational journey.” These are comments from the recent recipients of our 2021 Al Garren Renewal Scholarships who are planning to graduate this academic year with degrees in English, Education and Political Science/ Sociology. The awardees are Hali Brenner, Lisa Parreira, and Jasmin Zazaboi. Hali plans on becoming an English professor. Lisa plans on earning her teaching credential and focusing on early childhood education and writing. Jasmin is interested in experiential learning and looks forward to serving her community.



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. With this year’s three new grants, we will have helped fifteen 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 were online and it was often hard to get older computers to keep working. They struggled with the isolation of social distancing and several lost loved ones. Smoke from the fires was an additional challenge. Even with all the obstacles presented by the fires and pandemic, they are leaders in their communities, always willing to help others.

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

Our Scholarship Committee includes **Cathy Chiminello, Sue Finan, Charlene Luks, Phil Wright**

- **Kay Kohler**, Chair  
Al Garren Scholarship Committee





## Membership



If you enjoyed the AAUW's Lunch Bunch featuring our fabulous local restaurants, you benefitted from the hard work and meticulous planning of **Cecile Peters** (in partnership with AAUW member, **Connie Cservenyak**). Cecile has been a long-time contributor since 2013 and has graciously donated her time and skills to many of our AAUW key programs and events. Never shying away from tough assignments, she served for two years as the home tours chair - a significant event that financial supported our scholarship programs - and has served as a member of the AAUW Healdsburg Board of Directors.

Even when not in an official role, Cecile is a strong ambassador for many of AAUW educational programs and has made it her mission to expand them to her own Cloverdale community. Cecile is particularly proud of the work she has done partnering with Cloverdale School District staff to successfully organize Future Prep Careers events, Girls Engaged in Math and Science (GEMS) field trips, and the Eleanor Stem Allen Memorial Speech Trek.

Cecile's passion for advancing local education opportunities did not stop with organizing AAUW programs. When she saw a greater need in Cloverdale's schools, she pursued community leadership positions to address some of the educational challenges. In 2016, Cecile successfully ran for and won a seat on the Cloverdale School Board. For four years, she provided leadership that resulted in successfully securing much-needed programs, like the return of technical education curriculum, and one-to-one student computer availability. In addition, Cecile is currently a School Board Liaison for the non-profit CARE (Cloverdale Adds Resources for Education) that supports co-curricular programs, projects, and activities by awarding grants to supplement instructions.

Cecile has a business degree from Northwestern and was a successful IT professional and business owner. Her skills in electronic data gathering, retrieval systems, and software development resulted in many career opportunities not often held by women. Although her jobs required her to live in big cities, like New York and Washington DC, she and her husband, Geoff dreamed of moving to the country once retired. Their two grown children live in San Francisco and Oakland, so their goal was to move close enough to enjoy seeing their two grandchildren but not live in another metropolitan area.

Eight years before they retired, their dream of the country living started to become a reality when they had the great fortune of finding and purchasing 20 acres in Cloverdale. Once retired in 2012, they moved to Sonoma County and started their family owned business, Showa Farm. On the farm, they have created a bio-diverse environment that features vegetable gardens, fruit, nut, and olive trees, goats, chickens, horses, two dogs, a burro, and even a rescued duck. Their hand-picked olive oil was a 2018 Silver Medal winner at the Los Angeles International Olive Oil competition.

Although Cecile finds her volunteer work all-consuming, she still finds time to help others and support many community efforts. She is a valued member of AAUW who looks forward to the time when we can all gather again at our wonderful Lunch Bunch events.

## New Members

### Caroline Mercer



Caroline is originally from New York and still loves New York and loves to visit. She moved to Southern California in 1963 and to Sonoma County in 1986. Since then, she has lived in Healdsburg, Windsor, and currently Cloverdale. She began her career in human resources and worked at Santa Rosa Junior College for 21 years where she also worked in human resources and later as the Manager of the Career and Student Employment Center. She returned to graduate school and completed her master's degree in Educational Counseling at age 54. Caroline then worked as an academic counselor and manager at SRJC. Following her retirement from the college, she worked at Job Link presenting career workshops until she retired at age 70. Although she loved her work, she decided it was time to stop getting up for an 8 a.m. class!

At 79, Caroline remains very active. She rides her electric bike at least once a week and enjoys kayaking as well. In addition, she is learning both the piano and the ukulele. She loves to travel, hike and is a big animal lover. Two of her three sons and their families live in California. Her youngest lives in Singapore with his family. Thus, four of her six grandchildren are nearby.

Caroline has already joined an AAUW book group and is also interested in helping with career counseling for students.

### Elizabeth Hansen



Bay Area natives, Elizabeth Hansen and her husband, Douglas Hansen, were thrilled to “retire” to Healdsburg. With old friends in nearby communities and ties to the greater Bay Area, they found Healdsburg to have a beautiful natural setting and have been slowly (due to COVID) integrating into the local scene. Live music (Jazz, etc.), art, good books, gardening, slow food, and small organic farms are some of their interests. Elizabeth has a BA in Studio Art from UC Berkeley and a BS in Landscape Architecture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Landscape Architecture allowed her to share her aesthetic talents with others while advocating for a “design with nature” (protecting native habitats) approach towards development.

Elizabeth worked as a licensed landscape architect for over 30 years, one of her last projects being the redesign of the historic landscaping surrounding the Cameron-Stanford House (Oakland's first Museum and on the National Register of Historic Places) on the shores of Oakland's Lake Merritt. For now, she has returned to painting, settling into her home and studio. Last year a series of her 17 watercolors entitled “Elegy for My Alma Mater” were included in a show at the Museum of Friends in Colorado. Her hope in joining the AAUW, to which her mother belonged, is to meet like-minded women in the community and find ways to contribute her talents.



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).