

The Grapevine

December 2021

Volume 37, Number 4



**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE
& ENRICHING THOUGHT**
Winter 2022 Online Courses – Registration begins December 1

Time to register for our Winter Forum classes! To see a complete description of the courses, go to our AAUW web page: <https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net>

Both classes will be presented on-line and also recorded. If you miss a class you will be able to watch the recording at a time convenient to you.

Our Winter Forum will present two wonderful courses:



Mick Chantler

Before the Storm:

America from 1815 to 1850

Tuesdays 10-11:45 AM, Jan. 11 to Feb. 15



Charlie Goldberg & Heidi Chretien

Interpreting Works of Art:

Your "GPS" for Visual Literacy

Thursdays 10-11:45 AM, Jan 13 to Feb 17



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & ENRICHING THOUGHT

Winter 2022 Online Courses – Registration begins December 1

Before the Storm: America experienced more changes in these thirty-five years than earlier societies did in two or three centuries. We will trace the impact of several key players: Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, James K. Polk, Frederick Douglass, Henry David Thoreau, and Ralph W. Emerson.

Interpreting Works of Art: Learn the basic tools and insights that will enable you to make sense of what you are seeing in terms of line, color, light, space and ultimately, composition and design. Together you will see and understand the linkage the Old Masters with contemporary artists.

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

-Celeste Plaister, Forum Chair



President's Message



With a few bumps in the road, we are finding our way to a new almost normal. I hope all of you were able to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. Using prudence and caution, we have been enjoying time together with AAUW members at events such as Wine N Dine and Happy Hour. I look forward to visiting with many of you at our December 10 Holiday Party. Sorry for those who will miss it, but the party is already sold out.

We have received welcome news that the 2022 Tech Trek camp will be an in-person experience. Although the virtual camp this past summer was successful, a return to the in-person camp is greatly anticipated. More details will be shared as arrangements are finalized.

Past year highlights have been posted on our website: Click *About*, then *History*.

The new classes for Winter Forum look amazing. They will again be online with the hope we can return to the Raven for our Spring sessions.

Did you know?:
AAUW is 140 years old
AAUW California is 100 years old
AAUW Healdsburg is 46 years old

Please find time over the holidays to relax and enjoy being with family and friends.
See you in 2022!

-Kate Van Ness

December Tech Tips

Keep informed about the happenings in the Healdsburg AAUW Branch. Click on the calendar to see all of the chapter activities. You can look at a week, a month or an agenda view. An easily accessible calendar is also available at the top right corner of most web pages.

Mission-Based Programs



High School Scholarship Committee

My favorite part of being the chair of the high school scholarship committee is receiving thank you notes from the scholarship recipients. These students are so grateful for our help and have such high expectations for their future. Whether you attend the Forum, contribute to the fund, or donate to an event, please know that your contribution is making such a difference in the future of these young women such as Megan.

“Hello Beth,

I hope this email finds you well.

I want to say a sincere thank you for the support AAUW has given me. I am so grateful and wouldn't have been able to attend UCSB without the help of organizations like AAUW. I am loving my college experience and continue to learn so much in all my classes, I can't wait to continue watching my journey unfold as I expand my education. The support AAUW gives me will play a vital role in my college experience as I enroll in classes, find on-campus residence, and purchase all the supplies required to be a successful student. With the grant I am receiving from AAUW, I am able to be prepared academically and gain an important college education. Again, I want to say I am so grateful to AAUW and greatly appreciate all the support.

Sincerely,
Megan Lazzarini”

-Beth Wolk
High School Scholarship Chair



Holiday Party Schoolteacher Donations

As stated in last month's Grapevine, we are again asking this year for a voluntary donation of \$10 to go towards school supplies. Please make a check out to AAUW and drop it off at the holiday party or mail it to Cathy Mock at 1154 Pedroncelli Dr. Windsor, CA 95492. **Cathy Mock** and **Beth Wolk** will then purchase gift cards and take them to the schools. Thank you! -

Catherine Mock



SAVE THE DATE January 22, 3pm

Title IX at 50: We Need It As Much As Ever!

It's the law! Gender discrimination in education was prohibited by Title IX in 1972. What progress has been made in the past 50 years? Why is there still so much work to do? AAUW Petaluma invites you to a conversation with experts on this important law to learn what you can do to advance equity for women and girls. SF Giants broadcaster Amy Gutierrez will be our host. The ZOOM link will be sent out in January.



Social Programs

Social Committee Report:



This fall has been a busy time for the **Social Activities Committee**. On October 13th, a group of us attended a private tour of the Achadinha Cheese Company. We thank everyone who joined us and I think we would all agree that it was a wonderful event.

We also hosted a Happy Hour (our second since July) at the Orsi Winery on November 4th. We had an enormous turnout, and everyone seemed to have had a great time. We especially thank **Neita Comings** and **Carol Hazlett** for arranging this incredible event for us. They really are our own Happy Hour experts!

In the meantime, **Mary Fitzgerald** has been working hard at planning the AAUW Holiday Party to be held on December 10th from 4-6. We'd like to thank our AAUW member **Marcia Fosberg** for generously donating her house for this event – she's been an amazing partner. The event is already sold out, but if you want to be put on the wait list, please contact Mary Fitzgerald (mmilfeit@yahoo.com)

We'd also like to extend gratitude and thanks to these AAUW Board members who are contributing wine for our Holiday party: **Kate Van Ness, Linda Clark, Laura Tredinnick, Nancy Andrews, Julie Hanamura, Dena Cochrane, Beth Wolk, Judy Edmonds and Dave Hoppes**. We also extend our thanks to AAUW Board Member **Kathleen Mullen**. **We are still in need of more wine, so anyone wanting to help us out with one bottle or a case (or anything in between), please contact Mary Fitzgerald at mmilfeit@yahoo.com.**

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season – we have so much to celebrate and be grateful for!

-Kerry Elkind, Social Committee Chair



Scholarship Success Stories

Kerri Maya's Story

2010 Recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC Scholarship



Having faced so many challenges as a youth including parental addiction, abuse, instability, and homelessness, Kerri opted for her GED so she could work to help support and provide care for her family. These early challenges deepened her personal resilience and empathy for others and lead her down her career path of support and caring for others.

In 2008, Kerri entered SRJC as a single mother to 4 children and caregiver for her mother with terminal lung cancer. Nonetheless, she worked and studied hard to complete her nursing degree in 2010 and graduated with the Dean's Highest Honors & membership in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. It was at this point that our Healdsburg AAUW branch awarded Kerri a scholarship that allowed her to continue her studies and complete her BSN in Nursing at Sonoma State University. In 2012, Kerri graduated magna cum laude from SSU and was inaugurated into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society.

Immediately after graduation, Kerri was hired as a critical care nurse in the ICU at Sutter Santa Rosa. She advanced rapidly and took on increasing leadership including specializing as an "open heart nurse" (which includes receiving patients directly from the cardiac operating room), a charge nurse, and Hospital Nursing Supervisor. Kerri received her MS in Nursing Science & Healthcare Leadership from UC Davis in 2018 and began taking second and third jobs teaching at both SSU & UC Davis.

Currently, Kerri is pursuing her PhD in Nursing at Davis while she works full-time for Sutter Health at the system-level as the Program Manager of Continuing Interprofessional Development and part-time as a Nurse Educator at UC Davis. She also frequently volunteers her time to lead ICU Surge Training (a strategy deployed during the current pandemic to increase the number of nurses with critical care skills) and training on delirium (aka Acute Brain Failure). She is a member of the Board of Directors as well as the Co-Chair of the Education Committee for the American Delirium Society and has given multiple peer-reviewed presentations on the topics at conferences across the country.

Kerri's Take-Home Message: "I am really proud of myself to start with such humble beginnings as a young, homeless mother with a GED to now being in the process of achieving my PhD and working daily as a leader and change agent within healthcare to improve severe systemic shortcomings that impact the health and well-being of us all. Yet my accomplishments thus far never would have been possible without the support of Healdsburg's AAUW branch and other caring individuals who believed in me enough to offer me the lifeline of support that I received. I have endeavored to pay-it-forward and to inspire others to rise to their potential. THANK YOU all so very much! "

Membership



'Tis the season to sparkle and shine! And again this year, AAUW's Santa Rosa branch has spruced up a tree for the Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove. Now it's not what's under the tree that matters, it's who is gathered upon it! This year the ornaments feature "Splendi4us STEAM Stars", including Janet Yellen, Malala Yousefzal, Margaret Thatcher, Tony Morrison, and Benazir Bhutto. So for tremendous holiday cheer, head for Windsor's Town Green from Dec. 2nd to Dec. 31st, and be prepared to take an elfie!



New Members

Denise Low



After spending most of her adult life in Kansas, Denise and her husband moved to Healdsburg in 2019 to be closer to their child and grandchild. After obtaining her BA and PhD from University of Kansas and her MFA in creative writing at Wichita State, Denise began teaching writing and literature at Haskell Indian Nation University as well as many other institutions. Currently, she is teaching literature part-time on-line at Baker University in Kansas.

Denise's first love was writing, whether it's journalism, essays, prose or poetry, Denise has always written. She's written a memoir, books of poetry, criticism and essays — including a current edition of works about her Covid-19-formed addiction to jigsaw puzzles. In 2006, Denise was named the poet laureate of Kansas by then governor Kathleen Sebelius and served in that capacity until 2009, giving readings, directing workshops and traveling throughout the state.

Denise's husband is also a writer, and is currently working on a children's book. When she is not baby-sitting her five-year-old granddaughter, Denise works in her garden, attends the Congregational church in Santa Rosa and spends time with her extended family in the area.

-Hillary Kambour

Kim Cheiken



After growing up in southern New Jersey, Kim obtained her undergraduate and law school degrees at the University of Pennsylvania. Soon after, she moved to Jacksonville, Florida with her husband and began her career helping him build and run his dermatology medical practice while raising two children. From there, she began teaching political science and government at a fully on-line university dedicated to educating members of the armed forces who have always (even prior to Covid-19) needed access to on-line learning. Kim is still teaching full-time and loves these students who are respectful, organized and highly motivated to learn.

When both of her children moved to California to pursue higher education, Kim was delighted when in 2018 her husband was offered a job at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Rosa. She continues to work full time, but now from her home in Healdsburg, and she couldn't be happier. Her daughter, a professional singer, is close by in San Francisco and son is in his second year of law school at UCLA; she recently moved her father to Spring Lake Village.

In her free time, Kim enjoys cycling, hiking, golfing and of course wine tasting.

-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. 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.

