

The Grapevine

September 2022

Volume 38, Number 1



**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE
& ENRICHING THOUGHT**
Fall 2022 Courses – Registration begins September 1

Our AAUW Forum will present two exciting courses this fall:



Alex Saragoza

**Cities of Empire:
Latin America's Great Urban Centers**
Tuesdays 10-11:45 AM, Oct. 11 to Nov. 15



Terry Ebinger

**Hollywood Comedies of Remarriage:
Golden Era Beloved Films**
Thursdays 10-11:45 AM, Oct. 13 to Nov. 17

At this time we plan on holding the classes at the Healdsburg Performing Arts Center Raven Theater (the Raven) with recorded classes available for viewing on-line after each class.

The Raven requires all staff, cast, crew, volunteers, and patrons to be vaccinated; masks are recommended but no longer required. The Raven has installed MERV-13 filters in the HVAC system as well as Corsi-Rosenthal Boxes in the lobby and backstage. Please Bring ID and proof of vaccination to the first class.

Starting October 11th, Professor Alex Saragoza's course will take us on an historic, political and cultural tour of some of Latin America's most fascinating cities, including a stop off in Buenos Aires to learn more about the tango. Other cities to be visited include Lima, Havana, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro and San Paulo.



Last fall, Alex, a UC Berkeley professor emeritus, gave us a well-received and fascinating course on Mexican Immigration/migration. He is a dynamic lecturer and will include beautiful visuals and music to highlight these great Latin American cities.

Besides lecturing at universities in the U.S., Mexico, Cuba and Europe, Alex has been a visiting professor at the Sorbonne in Paris. In 2017 he received an Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award by the Osher Life-Learning Institute at UC Berkeley. We are delighted to have him back.



Beginning October 13th, **Terry Ebinger's** film course will give us a fun and insightful look at some of most beloved movies from Hollywood's golden era.

We will focus on six movies, closely examining pivotal scenes, the role of iconic movies as archetypes, and legendary dialogue:

*Week 1: **It Happened One Night** - Marriage as adventure, inner awakening*

*Week 2: **The Awful Truth** - Marriage as performance, playmates, quippery, laughter*

*Week 3: **His Girl Friday** - Marriage as wrestling match, mated minds, working partnership*

*Week 4: **The Philadelphia Story** - Marriage as history, destiny, humanizing deflation*

*Week 5: **The Lady Eve** - Marriage as gamesmanship, loss of innocence, accidental wisdom*

*Week 6: **Adam's Rib** - Marriage as midlife role review, gender rivalry, reversal, renewal*

For a richer experience, we recommend watching the complete versions of these widely available films before each class. Thought provoking film clips and illustrative camera shots will be presented during class.

As we learned last year, when Terry taught her fascinating course on Alfred Hitchcock for us, she is a very engaging and edifying lecturer. Her class gave us the skills to really understand and appreciate Hitchcock's story making magic. We can't wait to hear her take on some our favorite romantic comedies.

You can **REGISTER** and see a complete description of the courses on our AAUW web page: <https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net>.

All the net proceeds from these courses go to support our local educational programs and scholarships for women and girls. We don't spend money on advertising, and **we rely on our AAUW members to get the word out about our wonderful courses. Please tell you friends!**

Celeste Plaister, Forum Chair

President's Message



It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. For many of us it has been a time of catching up on travel; for others, it's been time for catching this extremely contagious strain of COVID after being so careful and COVID-free for over two years. In our family, it was both! I hope that any of you who have had it have recovered.

Some really good news: We have been awarded a grant from the Wild Goat Foundation, in honor of Saralee Kunde, in the amount of \$24,000. This will allow us to award six \$4000 scholarships to deserving local high school senior girls. We are excited about this award and the difference it will make in these girls' lives.

We are developing a new grant writing group to investigate more grant opportunities to support women and girls in our community.

Membership Renewal: Membership renewal has been a challenge for all this year due to the revamp of AAUW National's website. Our Membership Director, *Janice Sexton* (who has also been working closely with National), is the person to contact if you need assistance.

Just a reminder that 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 provide life-changing scholarships for women and girls. In the words of our member **Beth Wolk**, and a fitting motto for Healdsburg AAUW, "**WE CHANGE LIVES.**"

More good news: The FORUM will be back live at the Raven. I understand that discussions are underway regarding continuing the Zoom version too. We will wait to hear from *Celeste Plaister* on that.

Board News: Even though it is summer, your board has been working diligently in the background. Tech Trek, led by **Nancy Haiston**, was held in person this year at Sonoma State University, with our branch able to send eight enthusiastic girls. The annual picnic and trivia contest, put on by the Social Committee, was another success. **Lee Siegler** and **Julie Hanamura** have been formulating a budget which will be presented to the board at our retreat on September 1. A fundraising committee, led by **Dena Cochran**, met to brainstorm ideas for this year's Spring fundraiser. All agreed that it was too soon to ask people to open their homes, but we are planning to revive the Homes Tour in 2024 and are researching some new creative ideas for this year. The Social Activities Committee, led by **Kerry Weiner-Elkind**, is busy planning for our **picnic, Thursday, August 31st**, and our **kickoff meeting on Sunday, September 18th**. Don't miss it!

See you in September,
Laura Tredinnick

Public Policy

Title IX: Still More to Do



This year marks the 50th anniversary of Title IX. The 37 words of Title IX definitely created significant changes within our society. “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” Although women’s athletics changed dramatically as a result of this law, we can’t take this progress for granted — vigilance is, and has always been, required to maintain equal rights for women.

Five years before Title IX became law, I graduated high school. Recently, I flipped through my 1967 yearbook and the limited availability of women’s sports was shocking. Twenty-eight pages were devoted to boys’ sports and only two focused on the girls’ programs. There were many more photos of cheerleaders and pom pom girls than there were of female athletes. Patriarchy was well entrenched at Saratoga High School.



I never had a daughter. My twin sons were born in 1982 and I was reminded of Title IX every time I went to a high school basketball game. Girls in the 1990s could now play by the same rules as the boys, and this was a direct result of some of the advocacy after Title IX was passed. When I was in high school in the 1960s, women’s basketball seemed like one of the most ridiculous sports. Built on the premise that women were simply too fragile and physically unable to run a full court game, girls couldn’t dribble more than three bounces before they had to pass. There were six players on a team and each player was either on offense or defense. They were not allowed to cross the mid court line. Eventually, one rover was allowed and after 1972, the rules changed completely. Women were finally allowed to fully engage in the game of basketball.

Using sports as a lens to view Title IX, it’s easy to see the impact. About three and half million women participated in high school sports in 2019 compared to 294,000 in 1972. Today, women make up 44% of all NCAA athletes compared to 15% prior to Title IX. (However, we also need to be aware that almost 60% of college students today are women.) The gap persists, but it has definitely narrowed. However, if you look closely, it’s much more complicated than just statistics. At Butte College where I taught history, we owe a huge debt to our Title IX Compliance Officer, a courageous, spunky instructor and coach named Carol Stanley-Hall. Without someone like her, Butte College would have made little progress.



Carol often shared stories of the barriers that she had to face as a woman in a department completely dominated by men. Even after Title IX was passed, women like her fought hard for more opportunities for women. In fact, women’s sports were not even established at Butte College until 1974, six years after it opened its doors. Although the school established women’s teams, how many women got to participate on the field hockey or the volleyball teams in comparison to the men on the various teams they were on? Had Carol not kept some records and routinely questioned the imbalance, far fewer women would have had opportunities to play.

Budgets and scholarships are another example of the privilege men enjoy in athletics. Far fewer college scholarships are or were offered to women. Equipment and uniform budgets were often skewed in favor of the men. For instance, Carol tried to get some equity in terms of laundering uniforms. The men had their uniforms washed by staff at the college while the women had to take theirs home to launder themselves. Schedules, transportation to events, and use of facilities is another area that is filled with disparate treatment for women. Football and basketball teams, both at the college and high school level, are often transported on busses or planes while in many cases, women had to pay or find their own way to a match or a game.



Finally, what about coaching opportunities for women? Carol was the exception. In the photo to the right, two male coaches are pictured with one of the Butte women’s basketball teams. I can’t remember the Butte College women’s teams having any female coaches other than Carol and she only coached track and volleyball. Today, only 6% of NCAA head coaches today are women. There has been little progress made in that arena especially for women of color.

Since the passage of Title IX, we have achieved much but we have more work ahead of us before these educational programs offer true equality for women and girls. For at least a few more years, we will need to keep the full court press on.

-Tyra Benoit, Public Policy Director



Response to AAUW Statement Strongly Condemning The U.S. Supreme Court's Opinion on Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Opinion Written by **Julia Weller**, Healdsburg AAUW Member

It was with dismay that I read the AAUW Statement condemning the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, not because I do not sympathize with the sentiments expressed, but because I think it does a disservice to our members by failing to provide any context or analysis of the actual decision. We are, after all, university graduates and should be given credit for being able to grasp the basics of Constitutional Law.

It is important to understand, at the outset, that the Dobbs decision was not based on a value judgement about abortion. The Supreme Court specifically stated: "Our opinion is not based on any view about if and when prenatal life is entitled to any of the rights enjoyed after birth." It therefore made no attempt to determine definitively whether abortions should be banned or be allowed.

Rather, the Supreme Court analyzed the Constitutional provisions which were relied upon in Roe v. Wade and a subsequent decision upholding Roe, called Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey, to determine if that reliance was correct. It found that reliance to be misplaced and that the right to an abortion is not protected by the Constitution. It also found that nothing in the Constitution prohibits the individual States from regulating abortions. It therefore returned that authority "to the people and their representatives." By so doing, the Supreme Court was explicitly reigning in the power of the federal government.

Our AAUW members might be interested in understanding the Supreme Court's decision in more detail. As anyone who has read the Constitution knows, there is no reference to abortion in it, so the defenders of Roe and Casey relied on the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. That clause has been held to guarantee other rights not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution, such as homosexual relations, contraception and interracial marriage. The Supreme Court in Dobbs, however, said those cases were fundamentally different because they did not involve the destruction of what the Mississippi law being challenged called "an unborn human being."

News commentators have suggested (as do the three dissenting Justices) that the Dobbs decision calls into question decisions guaranteeing those other rights (with one commentator even going so far as to suggest that Justice Thomas' interracial marriage might now be challenged under Dobbs). But the majority opinion goes out of its way to repeatedly stress that abortion rights are fundamentally different since they involve "potential life" and that nothing in the opinion should be understood to cast doubt on precedents that do not concern abortion.

The Supreme Court also held that there was no settled common law right to abortion because, as a review of the literature and common law demonstrated, killing of a fetus had been subject to criminal sanctions in most States in the past.

Supporters of Roe also argued that the decision establishing abortion as a constitutional right has lasted almost 50 years (as does the AAUW Statement). Casey also held that Roe should not be overturned, even if it was incorrectly decided, because of stare decisis (the doctrine or principle that precedent should determine legal decision making in a case involving similar facts). But as the Dobbs decision pointed out, if stare decisis were an immutable doctrine, Plessy v. Ferguson, allowing States to maintain racially segregated schools and other facilities, would still be with us. Brown v. Board of Education repudiated the "separate but equal" doctrine, finding that the earlier decision erred in interpreting the Constitution. Plessy was law for almost 60 years, even longer than Roe. The length of time that a decision withstood review does not mean it was a good decision.

The AAUW Statement brings up an arguments similar to that found in the dissent, that the majority decision will do "the most harm to low-income people, women of color, immigrants, people with disabilities and LGNTQ+ people..." The Dobbs decision noted that: "The contending sides in this case make impassioned and conflicting arguments about the effects of the abortion right on the lives of women." But it concluded that the Court had "neither the authority nor the expertise" to adjudicate those disputes and that courts are prohibited from substituting their "social and economic beliefs for the judgement of the legislative bodies."

The Supreme Court was therefore telling legislators and voters that it is their job to decide on what abortion rights should be. This is how the division of powers was intended to operate. As the Court noted: "Women are not without electoral or political power." Individual members of the AAUW can make their opinions on abortion, both for and against, known through lobbying their representatives.

The answer is not, as some members of Congress have suggested, to question the legitimacy of the Supreme Court itself. This is unfortunate. Anyone who actually reads the Dobbs decision will understand that it was doing what Courts are supposed to do—applying the Constitution and common law precedent.

Mission Based Programs

Mission Based Programs consist of committees that work to support our community, particularly in education for students in preschool through high school.

Future Prep brings people who work in interesting career fields three times a year to speak to students at Healdsburg High School. **Dena Lash**, and **Caroline Mercer** are the chairs. If you are interested in helping, please contact them.

School Readiness is a committee with the mission to assist in making sure that all children are ready for Kindergarten and school success, both socially/emotionally and academically. We usually help fund the preschool fair, and we are still forming the activities that we will be doing, but if you are interested in this topic and have ideas, please let us know..

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. If you are interested in participating, please contact **Diane Burnley** for Healdsburg Elementary or **Pat Bertapelle** for West Side School.

Holiday Gift Supplies for Teachers: Each year we gather \$10 from our members in order to help our schools purchase supplies. We deliver a check or Amazon Gift cards right before winter break to say thank you for all that they do for students in our community.

-Cathy Mock and Beth Wolk
Mission Based Programs Directors



Tech Trek 2022



As many of you know, Tech Trek is a week-long academic residential camp featuring hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for girls entering 8th grade. Instructors include teachers and professional women in STEM related careers. The camps are located on university and college campuses where campers are immersed in the full campus experience. Seventh grade girls are nominated by their teachers and then go through a rigorous selection process which includes essays and interviews by our Branch Selection Committee.

This year, 94 branches sent 457 Tech Trek campers to dorm rooms on six college campuses. Our Branch sent eight local girls to the Tech Trek camp hosted by Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park. Prior to camp, we hosted a

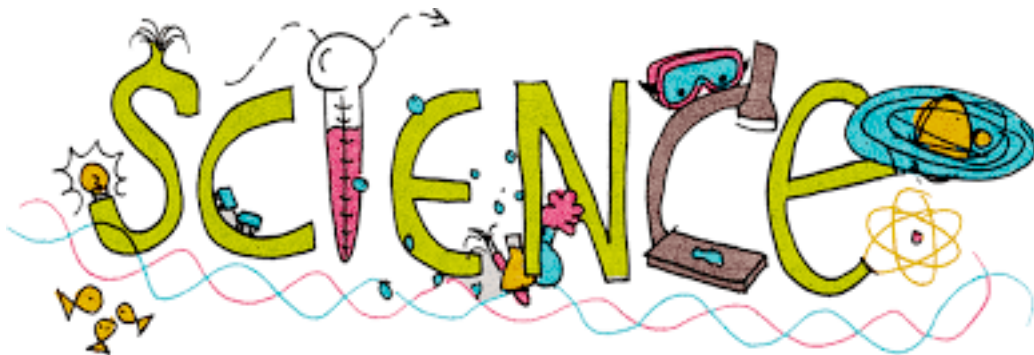
Meet & Greet at the Healdsburg Library for the TT campers, their parents and teachers. The 30-plus attendees also included Tech Trek alumni, Selection Committee members and Board members. The Meet & Greet gave everyone a chance to meet those involved in the program and ask any lingering questions. And most importantly, it gave the girls a chance to meet each other.

Based on the feedback from the TT Camp Leadership, the week was a huge success. And you don't have to take their word for it. One of the camp requirements is that at the end of the week, the girls write a letter to the Branch that sponsored them. Click [HERE](#) to read their enthusiastic responses to having been chosen to attend this amazing STEM experience.

The State Tech Trek team did an amazing job this year relaunching the residential camps, incorporating the virtual option as a permanent part of the Tech Trek program, managing the Covid requirements intended to keep staff and campers safe, and adjusting to a new camp management software package.

At the Branch level, the Tech Trek Selection Committee also did an amazing job working with the school contacts, the students, parents and the State TT Team. Adjusting to the new software and the tight due dates was a particular challenge. I would like to give a special shout out to our Branch Selection Committee members: **Linda Clark, Barbara Epstein, Diane Meyers, Maureen McCalla, and Sue Finan** for their time and dedication in making this happen.

Nancy Haiston, Tech Trek Committee Chair



Social Programs

Healdsburg AAUW Annual Kickoff Party

Sunday, September 18, 2022

5:30-7:30 pm

Marian Van Alyea's Home

3955 Lambert Bridge Road

Healdsburg

PLEASE COME TO THE PARTY!! Yes, it's almost time to kick-off our 2022-2023 AAUW year. You'll want to hear about the exciting plans for the coming year, visit with our Board Members, and socialize with old friends, as well as meet new ones. **Please remember to wear your name tags.**

If your last name begins with **A through L**, please bring a finger food appetizer to share

If your last name begins with **M through Z**, please bring a bottle of wine

It's suggested to carpool, when possible. Please note that we will be outside, so be sure to dress accordingly.

Please respond by September 6th to: juliehanamura@yahoo.com

We look forward to seeing you there!

Kerry Weiner Elkind, Chair



Wine N Dine

On Sunday, June 26, Healdsburg AAUW held their first Wine N Dine for 2022. Five AAUW members hosted 35 members and spouses for a Garden Brunch. Patios and decks were the outdoor settings for the lovely late morning, early afternoon meals. The hosts who generously offered their backyard surroundings for our June Brunch included AAUW members **Connie Cservenyak, Jan Stanley, Carol Callahan, Nancy Haiston, and Jennifer Crandall.**

Everyone enjoyed an array of delicious foods, delectable wines, and interesting, fun, and often stimulating conversations.

Here are photos from the gathering at Jan and Brent Stanley's home.

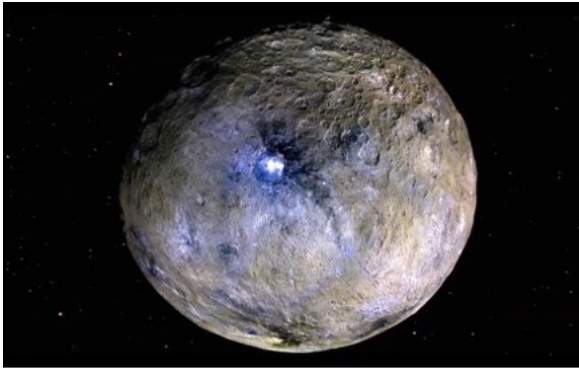


Our next Wine N Dine will be in the Fall on Saturday, October 15. The event is open to vaccinated members and their guests; and we always welcome new hosts and guests. More information about this event will be emailed in an eblast in mid-September.

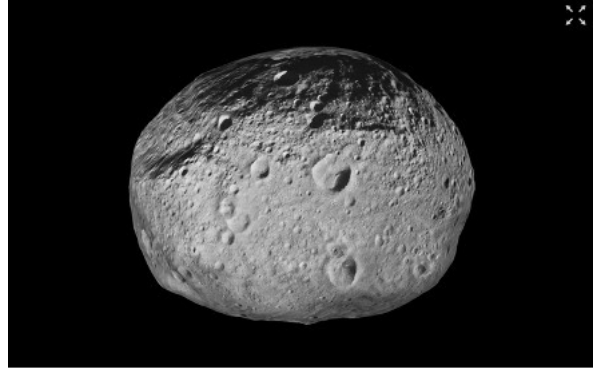
-Diane Burnley, Violet Nelson, and Cindy Powers
Co-chairs of the Wine N Dine committee



Lecture on NASA's Dawn Mission: Discoveries at Ceres and Vesta Unlock Secrets of Solar System Formation



**Ceres with Occator at Center
Hurtled in from the Outer Solar System**



**Vesta: Protoplanet Leftover from
Formation of Solar System**

Our very own **Mary Barsony, Ph.D.**, retired astrophysicist and current Tech Trek Fundraising Chair, will be presenting a public lecture on one of the most successful interplanetary missions of the 21st century. The lecture, including spectacular images and data from the Dawn mission, as well as short video clips, will be held at the Hopmonk Tavern in Sebastopol, CA, 230 Petaluma Avenue, at 7PM on Thursday evening, September 8, 2022, as part of the ongoing Science & Economic Buzz Cafe series. Come early for food and drink. Tickets are \$7 if you RSVP by emailing the organizer, Daniel Osmer, at daniel@economicbuzzcafe.com, or \$10 at the door.

NASA's Dawn spacecraft was so named because its goal was to explore the dawn of the Solar system by examining the two largest bodies in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter: Ceres and Vesta. Launched in 2007, Dawn arrived at its first target, Vesta, in 2011. After orbiting Vesta for nearly a year, and profoundly changing our previous view of its composition and formation, Dawn used its unique ion propulsion rockets to depart Vesta and orbit the dwarf planet Ceres, where it arrived in 2015 and its mission ended in 2018. Dawn sent back spectacular images of both bodies, discovered a briny sub-surface ocean on Ceres, organic materials delivered by impacts from the outer Solar system on both bodies, and has helped us understand the importance of location in the proto-solar nebula on the formation of bodies in our solar system. Dawn's results will be the highlights of this presentation.

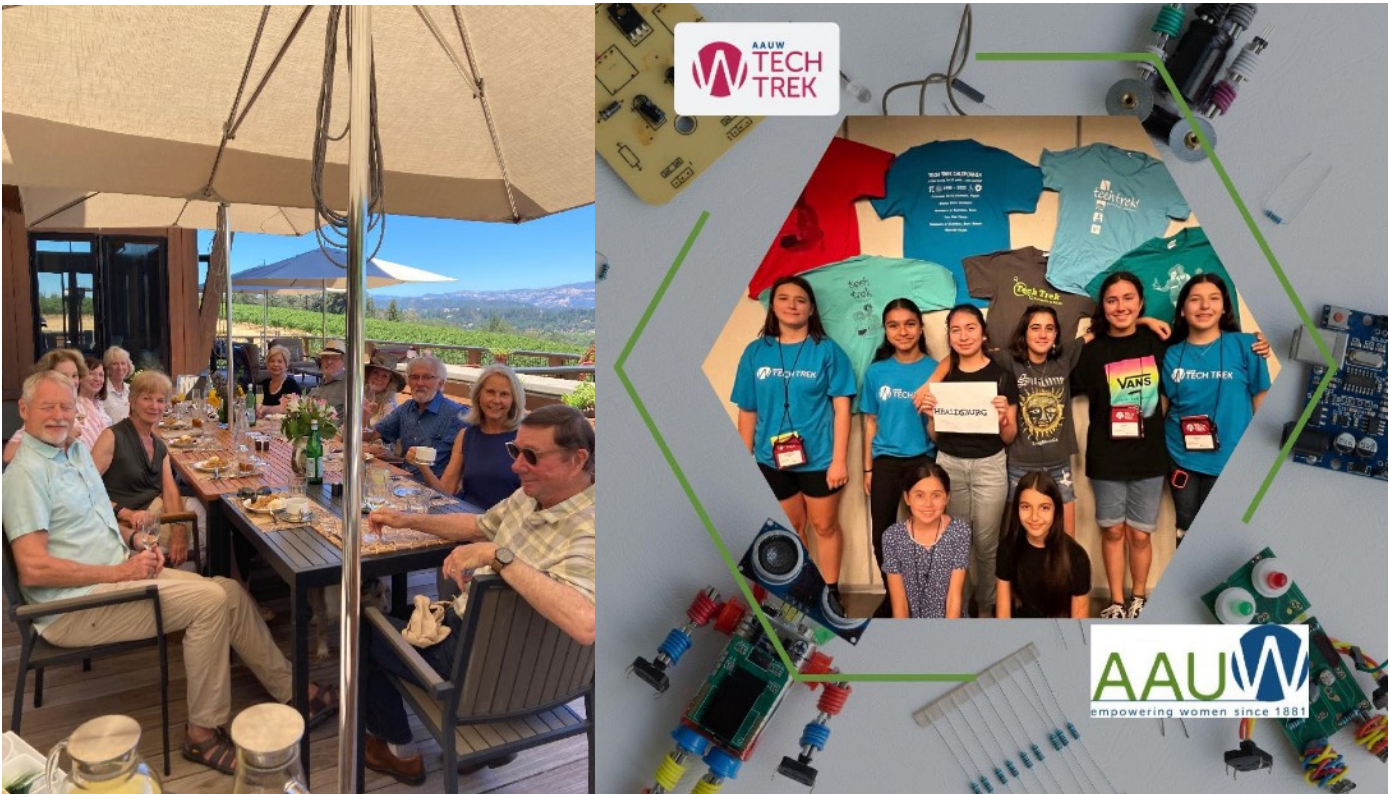
Mary Barsony, Ph.D. received her physics education at M.I.T., and Caltech, followed by postdoctoral appointments at U.C. Berkeley and Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. She served as faculty at U.C. Riverside, Harvey Mudd College, USC, and held research positions at Space Science Institute of Boulder, CO and SETI Institute of Mt. View, CA. Her research career focused on the processes involved in star-formation, utilizing major ground and space-based telescopes, including Hubble and JWST.



Communications

Spread the Word! Communications about Healdsburg AAUW in 2022—2023

The Communications Team is ready to spread the good news about branch activities and achievements this year. We have our returning members **Liz Loebel** handling Constant Contact, **Donna Riley** as our Grapevine publisher and **Laura Tyler** managing the website. **Carol Noack** may be in Oregon but she still is providing MarCom support. We welcome **Anna-Laura Jansma** who will be doing Publicity, **Holly Schatz** will serve as Corresponding Secretary and **Jessica Cress** is our new Social Media Publisher.



These photos, although included in previous articles, demonstrate the collaboration we want to improve between programs. All we need is your input about branch activities that you want to promote or celebrate. We have so many that take place all year round! Let's start with sending photos and updates to our Facebook and Instagram pages through **Jessica Cress**. We'd love to have several a week. You can send your photo to Jessicav.cress@gmail.com, and a blurb about the event. Let Jess know whether she can make discretionary changes to your blurb and your Facebook/Instagram names if you want to be tagged. We can leave names blank if you prefer.

Jessica Cress, our new Social Media coordinator, is getting the word out on Healdsburg AAUW's successes. Expect more to follow from the Communications Team. Congratulations to **Patty, Nancy, Karla and Mary** on an excellent program. Click [here](#) to access the Healdsburg AAUW site and plan on things getting really busy. Thank you, Jessica!!

-Kim Alexander
Communications Director

Membership

UPDATES FROM MEMBERSHIP

2022-2023 Membership Renewal

Renewal invoices will be sent out in late March or early April 2023. The National dues are increasing by \$5, so your total membership dues for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 will be \$112. The easiest way for you to renew is to click on the link that will be contained in the invoice.

Photos for the Personal Information List

If you log into the Personal Information file located in the Members Only section of our Healdsburg AAUW [website](#) and look for your own information, you can tell if we have a photo of you or not. If you have a headshot photo you would like us to use, you can send it to me at janicesexton46@gmail.com. If not, don't be surprised when one of our board members gets you to pose for a picture at one of our upcoming events. It's helpful if you can send a photo in .jpg format but not absolutely necessary.

Nametags

If you have joined in the past couple of years and still don't have a nametag, I probably have it. I will be bringing them to some of the upcoming events, so be sure and check when you come in. If you have misplaced your nametag, you can order a replacement from me. The branch buys the first nametag, and the second one is on you. The current price for a replacement nametag is \$10.38, including tax. That is the price when we purchase 5 or more at a time, which means we wait until we can order at least that many, so there might be a slight delay before your new nametag arrives.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming in-person events. It will be so wonderful to finally get together again!

Janice Sexton, Membership Director



SUPPORT HEALDSBURG AAUW FUND

BY SIGNING UP FOR



Amazon will donate 0.5% of your total purchases to us. If you shop on Amazon, follow these simple steps to sign up:

- Visit smile.amazon.com
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- Sign in to your Amazon.com account
- Select [Healdsburg AAUW Fund](#) as your charity
- Every time you shop, log in to smile.amazon.com

If you already participate in Amazon Smile, it is easy to change your designated charity. Log in to smile.amazon.com, bring your cursor to “Accounts and Lists” at the top of the screen, then select AmazonSmile from the drop-down list. Click on the “Change Charity” button at the top right of the screen

New Members

Jessica Cress



Born and raised in Santa Rosa, Jessica moved to San Francisco to go to college. After six years there, she moved to New York City where she worked in sales and marketing for Spotify and helped build the sales team for their business sector. After a company sale, Jessica began working for a small Italian music streaming service. With the changes the pandemic brought, this endeavor was stalled significantly and Jessica decided to study for her real estate license. While studying, Jessica came back to Santa Rosa to be with family and decided to stay. She received her license and is working with Prosper Real Estate, a boutique company that utilizes a team approach to real estate.

When not working, Jessica enjoys running with the Healdsburg Running Company, not just for the exercise, but also to explore parks and coastal areas and because they always finish their runs at different local establishments. Jessica is really enjoying getting to know her home county as an adult — realizing all that it has to offer.

AAUW’s commitment to education for women and girls brought Jessica to membership. She is especially interested in helping girls understand the many choices they have for careers—whether through college, or trade school. She has already started assisting the Healdsburg chapter with its social media presence and looks forward to encouraging younger women to join AAUW.

-Hillary Kambour

Scholarship

Scholarship Success Stories

Guadalupe Gonzalez's Story

2017 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship



My name is Guadalupe Gonzalez. I graduated from Cloverdale High School in 2017 and subsequently left to study Neuroscience at UC Santa Cruz that same fall. Transitioning from high school to college as a first-generation student was definitely something that took some getting used to. Going from having all the coursework materials provided for me in high school to suddenly having to even pay to use online sites to submit homework was a totally new experience for me. However, the Healdsburg AAUW scholarship alleviated some of the stress that would have been caused by having to spend hundreds of dollars a quarter on material and lab fees. While I heard a lot of my peers stress about the prices of textbooks and homework sites, I knew that I had a way to cover these expenses. I remember feeling joy at being chosen as a Healdsburg AAUW scholarship recipient and knowing that it would contribute to making college financially possible.

As a DACA recipient, when I was looking for ways to finance my college education, a lot of scholarships made it clear one must be a citizen or permanent resident to be eligible to even apply. Being allowed to apply for the Healdsburg AAUW scholarship and subsequently being chosen as a recipient was something that brought hope in the wake of hearing back about the other scholarships I had been able to apply for. The existence of your scholarship is something that I feel was so important to me and that, looking back, I am very grateful for. Whether it is used to contribute to tuition or course materials, it helps make a college education all the less financially stressful.

My study of neuroscience took me through an academic journey including various courses in mathematics, biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, biochemistry, neuroscience, and more. We foundationally explored biological molecules as well as individual nerve cells and gradually the courses became more major focused, leading to the examination of neurological pathways. My favorite was an introduction to neuroscience course, as it was the beginning of the concentration I had chosen to study, something I was greatly looking forward to. In this course, I gained the fundamentals of the structure and function of the nervous system as well as the biophysics and physiology of single nerve and muscle cells. Prior to that course, neuroscience majors essentially follow the same course scheme as those majoring in molecular, cell, and developmental biology (MCD) before branching out to the neuroscience focused courses, which is why this specific course was so impactful for me.

Now about a year after graduating with a B.S. in Neuroscience from UC Santa Cruz, I am actively in the process of applying to medical school for the upcoming 2023 cycle while working at Providence St. Joseph Health in the oncology/hematology department. Once again, I want to thank the Healdsburg AAUW membership for awarding me the scholarship in 2017 and I hope to continue to see it be accessible to those pursuing higher education.



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 Holly Schatz so that a card can be sent to the person or family from Healdsburg AAUW. Email - hollypschatz@gmail.com. Phone - 415-305-4559.

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