

The Grapevine

November 2022

Volume 38, Number 3



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

Our two wonderful Fall Forum classes have started! If you would like to sign up for the Fall Forum, remember the recordings of all the classes are available to all registered students through November 30th.



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

Remember this is our local chapter's ONLY fundraising community event at this time. (Our Homes tour has been postponed due to COVID). The net proceeds go to support our local programs and scholarships for girls and women. Please consider signing up and help our Forum program rebound.

You can REGISTER and/or see a complete description of the courses on our AAUW web page: <https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net>. As I write this article, in the middle of October, we making plans for our winter and spring Forum. Please watch for emails from us and updates to our AAUW web page regarding our future Forum classes.

-Celeste Plaister, Forum Chair

President's Message



October has been a busy month. When we found out that the League of Women Voters was not doing a candidate forum in Healdsburg this year, our Public Policy Director, **Ty Benoit**, stepped in and put together an event in record time in partnership with the Raven Theater and Corazón Healdsburg. All seven candidates were present and offered their views at the well-attended meeting. Many thanks to the Raven for donating the use of the theater for this important event.

October 11: We held our Kickoff Meeting (rescheduled after our rain-out in September), in the lovely garden of our member **Marian Van Alyea**. This event brought together roughly 60 AAUW members and five guests. We heard an inspiring speech from Linda Vrabel, a woman who had long ago received a scholarship from an AAUW chapter in the Midwest, which enabled her as a re-entry student, to complete her education in nursing and start a career.

October 12: A group of members got together and wrote “Get Out the Vote” notes, to encourage voters to get their voices heard in the upcoming election.

October 13: We spent the evening enjoying the camaraderie and great wines at Mill Creek Winery during our Happy Hour Event. It was a beautiful evening to spend at the picnic grounds enjoying the view over the vines. Many thanks to the Social Committee, led by Kerry Elkind Weiner, and especially organizers Neita Comings and spouse, Bill, Carol Hazlett, and Don Albini, who spent their time pouring for us.

More good news: We have been awarded a second \$24,000 grant this year. This one comes from the Public Schools Success Team (PSST). See more about that further on in the Grapevine.

Something to read: This summer I read “The Personal Librarian,” by Marie Benedict; the story of Belle da Costa Greene, who was hired by J. Pierpont Morgan, Sr. to curate and collect items for his personal library. This fascinating true story prompted us to visit the Morgan Library and Museum in Manhattan on a recent trip. In addition to the exotic collection of books (which we expected), we were most surprised by carved cylinder seals, used to sign documents between 700 and 601 B.C. which were beautifully displayed with enlarged images.

Something to watch: I have been completely taken by the series “Extraordinary Attorney Woo” on Netflix. Set in Korea, this is the story of an autistic woman who becomes a successful attorney. I find it both interesting and relaxing. Wishing you a Happy Fall,

Laura Tredinnick

Tech Tip———>> *Take a look at the updates to our Mission Based Programs. On the home page, click on Community Service and then on Mission Based Programs.*



NEWS FROM AAUW CALIFORNIA

AAUW California has some interesting opportunities for us to learn more about, well...AAUW!

HEAR THEM ROAR!

The AAUW Fund Events are where branch members can see the benefits of supporting the AAUW mission. It's the time to see and hear our California fellows and grantees synopsized their projects. The AAUW Fund Event in November will be on Saturday, November 12th from 10-noon. Click [HERE](#) to view and read the presenters' bios and register for one or more of the AAUW Fund Events.

You can donate to AAUW Fund as a branch or as a member. Consider designating your donation in honor of the AAUW Fund Events. Click [HERE](#) for details.

LET'S CHAT! A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)

We hope you had the opportunity to participate in the AAUW National DEI Officer Training on September 10th or 17th. If not, not to worry! A recording should soon be available and will be shared with all branch DEI officers and coordinators. To continue our learning and engagements on issues of DEI, please join us on November 3rd at 6 pm for our first AAUW California DEI Statewide Chat: An Intimate Conversation with AAUW National leaders, Julia Brown and Melissa LaDuke. We'll discuss their engagement in AAUW on a personal level, what National is doing to promote DEI, and what we can do on an individual and branch level to further our own understanding and strengthen our commitment to this work. You really won't want to miss it!

This is open to all branch members! To register, click [HERE](#).

WOMEN WITH A VOICE! HOW ARE YOU GROWING?

A few months ago, the most unusual thing happened at the Beach Cities Branch scholarship awards. A woman came into the room as the meeting began and took a seat at one of the far tables. Each recipient came forward and shared her Tech Trek, TTAG, and AAUW journey. The gratitude expressed and the pride of the families in attendance brought many to tears. At the end of the meeting, the woman revealed that she walked in on the wrong meeting. Hers was in another room, but she felt drawn to the magic in this place and stayed. It turned out that one of our members taught her daughter as well. This lovely woman not only joined AAUW on the spot, but she also wrote a check for \$1,000 to support the scholarship fund. Perhaps it actually was magic!

-Laura Tredinnick, President, Healdsburg Branch

Mission Based Programs

Reading Rocks

After a two year hiatus, Reading Rocks is back at West Side School. We are looking for some dedicated folks who love working with the adorable first graders to give them one-on-one time to practice their new skills with reading. We are asking for a one hour/week, on a set day and time for consistency. We are fortunate to have several "subs" that can fill in for vacations, illness or other commitments that may come up. Volunteers must attend a short volunteer orientation with the Principal, fill out a volunteer form, be fingerprinted, and show proof of a negative TB test. Many of our teachers and aides are still wearing masks, so you may also want to cover up. Come join the fun at our beautiful school in the redwoods....a short three miles outside of Healdsburg. Call or email for more information.

Pat Bertapelle
patbert1160@gmail.com
707 529-645

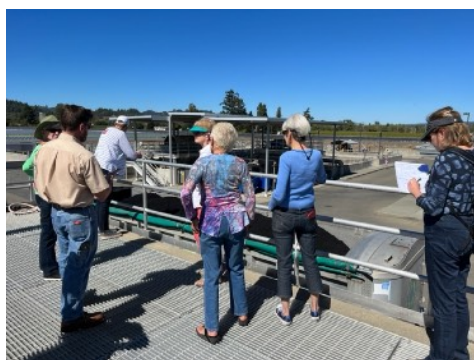
Social Programs

School Teacher Donations

Each December our branch helps with donations for much needed school supplies to the local elementary schools that participate in Reading Rocks: Healdsburg Elementary, Fitch Mountain Campus, and West Side School. We are asking for a \$10 voluntary donation to help with these supplies. Please make a check out to AAUW and mail it to Beth Wolk at 886 Jensen Lane, Windsor, CA 95492 by Dec. 12th if you would like to participate.

Thank you,
Beth Wolk and Catherine Mock
Mission Based Programs Chairs

AAUW Cultural Event – Healdsburg Water District Presentation



Twenty-eight Healdsburg AAUW members heard a fascinating presentation from Rob Scates, Water and Wastewater Ops Supervisor, and Patrick Fuss, Principal Engineer, Utilities on Thursday, Sept 29. They provided a slide show showing us where all the Healdsburg wells are located and where the storage tanks are. Of course, we are all worried about the drought and were interested to know what the plans are. The City's supply of water originates in **the Russian River Watershed** with most of the City's water coming from the Russian River. A smaller portion of the City's water comes from Dry Creek. These waters are pulled from the City's three well fields and then tested and

treated before being delivered to the water district customers. Lake Mendocino feeds the Russian River and has been dwindling for the last couple of years. Water management is very complicated, as the Healdsburg Water District has to deal with several State and Federal Agencies.



We then toured our wastewater treatment plant located on Foreman Lane. Who knew that we have a state-of-the-art facility? It uses Siemens membranes and disinfection provided by low pressure, high intensity UV lamps. The Healdsburg facility is one of the most advanced and innovative treatment facilities in California. Ultimately, virtually all plant effluent will be reclaimed for full, unrestricted reuse.

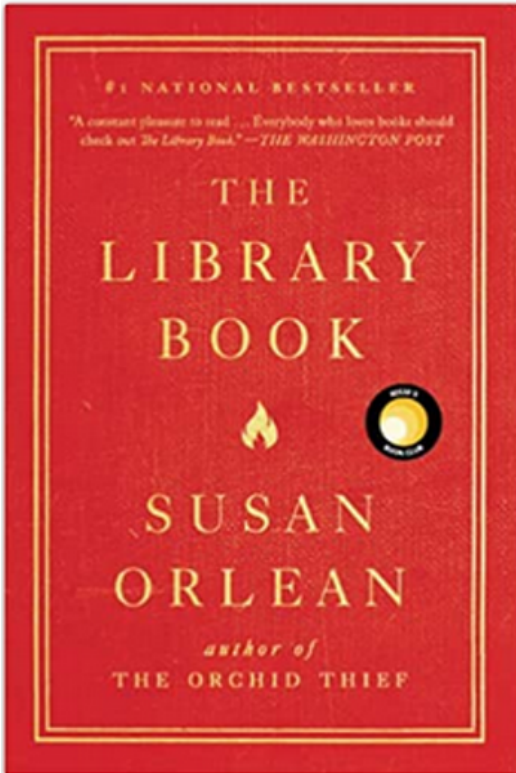
And on top of that we have the first floating solar panels. In January 2021, the City of Healdsburg completed a 4.78-megawatt photovoltaic (PV) solar array – the largest in the U.S. -- for the recycled-water ponds at its Wastewater Treatment Facility. How does the floating solar array benefit the community? This solar-array project is a major milestone for Healdsburg. It will provide 8 percent of the City's electric needs as well as reduce harmful algae blooms and improve the quality of the water to recycled-water users, which include local vineyards and farms.

We all learned a lot, and were quite impressed with our State-of-the-Art Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Liz Loebel, Co-chair Cultural Committee

[Rohnert Park Library Headquarters Tour](#)

Look inside ↓



“On the morning of April 28, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. The fire was disastrous: it reached two thousand degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who?” So starts The Library Book by Susan Orlean.

We’d love for you to join AAUW on an outing to the Sonoma County Library Headquarters for a personalized tour of how a book becomes a library book.

WHEN: January 24, 3:00 pm

WHERE: Sonoma County Library Headquarters (<https://sonomalibrary.org/>),
6135 State Farm Drive, Rohnert Park, Ca 94928.

HOW: RSVP before Monday, January 15, 2023 to:
Kathleen Riley, womenshistory@sonic.net
707.975.9016

A reminder will go out closer to the date of the event – but please put this on your calendar NOW.

Kerry Weiner Elkind, Chair

[AAUW Monday Hikes for November and December](#)

Contact the hike leaders for complete information.

November Hikes

- November 7 Cobblestone and Orchard Trail Loop, Annadel State Park
Leader: Cathy Mock
- November 14 Foothill Regional Park
Leader: Barbara Epstein
- November 21 TBD
- November 28 Healdsburg Ridge
Leader: Karla Rosen

December Hikes

- December 5 Crane Creek Regional Park, Rohnert Park
Leader: Yvonne Schell
- December 12 Foothill Regional Park
Leader: Nancy Casey
- December 19 Healdsburg Ridge
Leader: Charlene Luks



Membership New Member

Kim Brown



Kim, her husband and her sons moved up to Chalk Hill in 2013 from Portola Valley when her husband retired as an engineer for NASA. A year later, he was lured back to work — but remotely, they were here to stay. Kim, now retired, spends her time on her farm (chickens, ducks, dogs, and vegetables) as well as serving as a volunteer with non-profits that work to eliminate hunger for families in Sonoma County. Kim is also a volunteer with the Alexander Valley Ladies Aid — a service organization that has been around for more than 100 years.

Before moving to Sonoma County, Kim worked for four different start-up companies serving as Chief Customer Success Officer and Head of Sales. She retired some years ago and began using her knowledge of technology to rework the curriculum for her learning disabled child. When the Portola Valley School District got wind of the innovations Kim employed to help her son, they lured her out of retirement to assist other students. She spent six years doing this important work full-time.

Kim is excited to explore volunteer opportunities with AAUW and to meet new friends.

-Hillary Kambour



Scholarship

Scholarship Success Stories

2022 SRJC Scholarships for Re-entry Women

“Our efforts are making a difference”

Submitted by Jane Martin, Committee Chairman

As a part of our Healdsburg AAUW branch’s mission of encouraging higher education for women, this year we awarded scholarships to seven highly deserving, re-entry women who graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College and are now pursuing their degrees at a four-year college/university. These awards bring the total amount in scholarships to SRJC students to nearly \$343,000 since 1995. Applicants were carefully screened via a new online system that was introduced in 2019 and has worked perfectly the last three years. Our scholarship committee included **Maureen Keefe, Phil Wright** and myself.

Besides the academic rigor of taking college classes, this year’s awardees have had to overcome a host of significant barriers that cause many others to rethink their need for a college degree, lower their career goals, or walk away from college never to return. Not so with this year’s scholarship recipients! While they all at one point were forced step back from school, each rallied in their her way, worked through and overcame the challenges that confronted them including a global pandemic. All returned to and graduated from SRJC, and are now pursuing their degrees at a 4-year college/university.

Despite all that confronted these women, our recipients are truly winners in all aspects of their lives. They did return to school and graduated with highest honors from the SRJC. Each in their own way not only worked to better their own lives but also worked to make a difference in the lives of others and their communities. This year’s awardees aspire to the following careers: business psychologist, social researcher, agroecologist/botanist, public relations representative, UX/UI designer/researcher, staff scientist/research professor, and psychologist.

You can find information about this year’s awardees and their words of appreciation on the Community Service/Scholarships and Grants page of our Branch Web site.

Jane Martin, Committee Chair

PSST-Public School Success Team-Grant awarded to Healdsburg AAUW

After 13 years of supporting Healdsburg Jr. High and High School students through a tutoring and mentoring program, PSST has closed their organization. PSST asked for submissions from local non-profits in order to continue to support student success with their remaining funds. Fundraising Director **Dena Cochran** submitted an application on behalf of Tech Trek, School Readiness and Reading Rocks and the After School Programs.

PSST awarded \$24,000 to AAUW; grants were awarded to the six local non-profits who applied. The PSST Board designated that the funds be used for Healdsburg students only and that the bulk of the grant be used to support the Healdsburg girls attending Tech Trek.

Several AAUW members and former members have been involved with PSST as tutors, mentors or Board members through the thirteen years of its existence. These include **Barbara Epstein** (a founder of PSST), **Liz Loebel**, **Debbie Potmesil**, **Charlene Luks**, **Mary Lee McCune**, **Nola Colbert**, **Winky Merrill** and **Kim Alexander**. Former members include **Hala Alshawany** and **Lynne Brett**.

-**Dena Cochran** and **Kim Alexander**

Karen Warburton

It is with sadness that we inform you that member, Karen Warburton, passed away on October 4, 2022.

She was an active Healdsburg AAUW member, especially enjoying the Forum, Great Decisions, and the 2nd Monday book club of which she was co-chair, as well as many of our social activities. She was also active in the Healdsburg Garden Club and enjoyed walking, talking and visiting with friends.

She and her husband Roger moved to Healdsburg to be closer to her children and grandchildren, but they maintained a condo in Southern California to be closer to family.

She will be greatly missed.



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.