

The Grapevine

December 2022

Volume 38, Number 4



Register now for our Winter Forum which starts FEBRUARY 2nd, and will be live streamed on Zoom only, and recorded for later viewing.



Anastasia Edel
Russia's War on Ukraine
Thursdays 10-11:45 am, Feb 2 to – March 9, 2023

We are lucky to have Russian scholar Anastasia Edel return to the Forum this Winter to give us a timely and in-depth look into Russia's war on Ukraine. In 2019 she taught a fascinating and well received course for us on Russian politics, history and culture. Now, she considers: Why did Russia become an aggressor bent on destroying a neighboring nation with whom it shares centuries of common heritage? Why does Putin's regime refuse to call the war "war"? What's behind Ukrainian's resilience and Russians' acquiescence? Why Ukraine's rebirth is matched by Russia's civilizational and moral collapse. And how does this all end for Russia, Ukraine, and the world?

Anastasia will address how the dark side of Russian culture (chauvinism, cruelty, conformism) and how it masks and justifies the suffering in Ukraine. Anastasia will select works of Russian art that present this "dark side" and will discuss and consider whether they still belong in the world's cultural cannon. The origins of Russian fascism will also be explored. She is great lecturer and will use movie clips, music, art, and literature to illustrate the latest political, economic and cultural events.

Anastasia, grew up in a small town in the south of Russia near the Ukrainian border, and is an acclaimed Russian-American writer, social historian, and New York Times contributor. To read some of her prose click [here](#).

To REGISTER and see a complete description of the courses on our AAUW web page, click [here](#).

This class will be presented only online (Zoom) and will be recorded for later viewing. We hope to return to in-person classes sometime next year. Remember our courses are fundraisers, and all the net proceeds go to support our local educational programs and scholarships for women and girls.

Best wishes during the holidays,
Celeste Plaister, Forum Chair

President's Message



Once again, the month seems to have flown by, and we have lots to look forward to.

Holiday Party: Be sure to sign up for what promises to be a wonderful holiday party at Smith Story tasting room in the Bacchus Landing development. This is a colorful and fun indoor/outdoor space with heaters and umbrellas and a welcoming, enthusiastic staff. Check your email for the eBlast titled AAUW Holiday Party 2022 to sign up. See you there!

Upcoming Forum: We are excited about the winter forum session. Popular professor, Anastasia Edel, will be returning to give us a better understanding of Russia and Ukraine. See Celeste Plaister's article in this issue of the Grapevine for more information. Just a reminder, since its inception, the Forum has been a fundraiser supporting our scholarship program, so in the spirit of supporting this fundraiser, if two of you will be watching the class, consider buying two tickets as if you were attending in person.

What the Board is doing: The Grants committee, which was formed this year, is busily pursuing additional grants. If you are a member of a group that awards grants and think that our scholarship, early education, Tech Trek, or Reading Rocks programs would be a good fit for a grant, please let one of the following people know: Dena Cochran, Nancy Jane Andrews, or Julie Hanamura.

Once again, Beth Wolk is spearheading the holiday schools' supplies effort. See page three for details.

As I write this, I'm watching a small bird brave an icy wind, reminding me to be thankful for my warm home in this season of giving thanks.

Wishing you a happy start to the holiday season!
Laura Tredinnick

Tech Tip

Are you wondering what's going on in the branch? Check out the calendar. You can look at the entire month and beyond by clicking on the Calendar tab at the top of the home page. You can also find activities for the current day in the upper right corner of the home page.



Mission Based Programs

Help Guide Our Tech Trekkers to a Successful STEM Education and Career

AAUW Healdsburg is starting a new committee, Tech Trek Alumni Group (TTAG), to engage our former Tech Trek campers to stay involved and excited about STEM. It will enable them to establish an alliance of academically talented, like-minded girls who want to pursue a STEM education and career. The TTAG organization will be run by the girls! They will be responsible for setting up a board, running the meetings, and planning exciting events such as touring local companies and hosting college preparatory forums. If you would enjoy being an AAUW Advisor to guide a core group of girls through the startup process and running the organization and programs, please contact me, Karla Rosen, at karlarosen@gmail.com or (408) 691-2611.

-Karla Rosen



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**



Social Programs

A Harvest Wine N Dine



On Saturday evening, October 15, Healdsburg AAUW had their Harvest Wine N Dine Dinner. This was the second Wine N Dine event for 2022-2023. Six AAUW members hosted, inviting AAUW guests into their homes. Harvest themed dinners were coordinated by the hosts for all to enjoy.

Our hosts who so generously shared their homes for this event included AAUW members Julia Mattingly, Yvonne Schell, Maureen McCalla, Mary Fitzgerald, Pat Bertapelle, and Michelle Regan.

Delicious seasonal foods, delectable wines, and interesting, fun, and often stimulating conversations were enjoyed by all who attended.

Here are photos from the gathering at Pat and Dick Bertapelle's home:



Our next Wine N Dine will be on Saturday, February 4, 2023. So please place the date on your calendar. The event is open to all vaccinated AAUW members and their guests, and we always welcome new hosts. More information will be emailed in an Eblast in early January.

-Diane Burnley and Cindy Powers, Co-chairs for the Wine N Dine committee

*Merry
Christmas*

[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



Membership

New Members

Julia Mattingly



Julia moved to Healdsburg eight years ago from Philadelphia, after an intermediate stop in Pinehurst, North Carolina, where she figured out that she would never make a good golfer. Her only child is settled in Oakland. Julia visited relatives in Healdsburg many times and decided to make her home here.

Julia got her MBA from Wharton and worked as an international banker, living in London, Singapore, and Hong Kong. After retirement, she began full-scale traveling. She has a strong interest in ancient history and archaeology and has been to Syria, Albania, eastern Turkey, Greece, the Scottish isles, Sicily, and more...places with lots of ruins of various types! Ten years ago, two friends from work cajoled her into taking a part-time job as a consultant writing reports that rate Community Development Financial Institutions (a type of non-profit that is getting more and more recognition).

Julia reads a lot of history, literary fiction, and detective stories of all kinds, and plans to join a book group, and perhaps Great Decisions, if the calendar permits.

Annabel Bentley



Annabel has lived in Healdsburg for 22 years. She and her husband initially moved up to the area to start a vineyard near Lake Sonoma. Even though the vineyard enterprise was soon abandoned, the two made their home here and raised their two boys. Annabel's husband of 48 years passed away two years ago and she currently lives with her youngest son.

Although she started out as a teacher in special education, Annabel now volunteers for a company that runs wine competitions in Sonoma County. She works the backroom at these events, ensuring that all the necessities are available to ensure a smooth running competition.

Annabel is an avid reader, enjoying almost all genres, but particularly mysteries. She spends time in her garden, cultivating cacti and succulents mostly. She enjoys camping and the outdoors. She is excited that she finally has time to join AAUW and is especially interested in joining the hiking group.

-Hillary Kambour

Scholarship

High School Scholarships

At the end of the 2022 school year, our branch was able to give twelve \$2,000 scholarships to some amazing young women, thanks to your generosity and the amazing Madrona Manor Fund Raiser. We had 45 applicants from Healdsburg, Windsor, Cloverdale and Geyserville to choose from and after a great deal of deliberation we chose twelve that we presented at each school's awards' night. The students are going to a variety of universities, including UC San Diego, NYU, The New School, Sacramento State, UC Santa Cruz, Cal Poly, Humbolt State and UC Davis. Majors include molecular and medical microbiology, kinesiology, health science, and theater arts, just to name a few. Some of the recipients plan to become physicians, physician assistants, physical therapists, and psychologists. Many of them are first generation college students wanting to give back to their community. I received lots of heartfelt thank you notes such as this one from a student who received a Tech Trek Scholarship while she was in middle school. I will include other thank you notes in future bulletins. As an AAUW branch, we really do change lives.

"Dear AAUW Scholarship Committee,

I am deeply grateful that I am a recipient of your generous \$2,000 scholarship. AAUW sponsored my participation in Tech Trek, a life-changing experience. Your continued generosity means the world to me. My plan is to become a licensed Physician Assistant. I will be majoring in Biology and minoring in Astronomy.

Best Wishes,

Zoe Turk"

Beth Wolk, High School Scholarship Chair



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.