

The Grapevine

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Happy New Year!

Click [here](#) to see a sneak preview of our Winter Forum fundraiser starting Feb. 2nd with Anastasia Edel.



Anastasia Edel
Russia's War on Ukraine
Thursdays 10-11:45 am, Feb 2 to – March 9, 2023
A live on-line class, recorded for later viewing

Two days before the Ukrainian invasion began, Anastasia wrote this in the NY Times:

“Ukrainians, who sacrificed millions of lives to save the Soviet Union from the Nazis, are masters of partisan resistance. The conflict would be protracted, the victory Pyrrhic and the consequences for Russia as a nation disastrous.”

She will tell us why Russia become an aggressor and why Ukraine's rebirth is matched by Russia's civilizational and moral collapse, and how Anastasia believes this will all end for Russia, Ukraine, and the world. Anastasia will address the “dark side” of Russian culture (chauvinism, cruelty, conformism) and masks, and she justifies the suffering in Ukraine. As she discusses works of Russian art that present this “dark side, Ms. Edel will consider whether they still belong in the world's cultural cannon. The origins of Russian fascism will also be explored. Movie clips, music, art, and literature will be used to illustrate the latest political, economic and cultural events.

Born in Russia, near the Ukrainian border, she is an acclaimed Russian-American writer, social historian, and New York Times contributor. To read some of her articles click [here](#).

To REGISTER and see a complete description of the course on our AAUW web page click [here](#). This class will be presented only online (Zoom) and will be recorded to allow students to view classes at their convenience. The recorded videos of the class will be available on line through April 30th. 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.

-Celeste Plaister, Forum Chair

President's Message

Lots going on!



Membership

I was able to attend one of the New Member teas hosted by Yvonne Schell at her lovely home. Our new members are interesting, enthusiastic, and ready to become engaged. One thing they all had in common was that they were invited to join AAUW by a current member! You, as a member, can make a difference simply by talking to your neighbor or someone you meet by chance and telling them about AAUW. One topic that surfaced was a desire to meet as a group more often. This morphed into investigating whether we should resurrect our external speaker's program. Look for a survey from me on this topic in the coming weeks.

I enjoyed seeing so many of you at our Holiday Party held at the Smith Story tasting room and catered by Canevari's Deli. If you visit either of these businesses, be sure to mention you are with Healdsburg AAUW, and tell them how much you appreciate their support.

Outreach

One of our board goals is to increase our outreach in the community. We have already made strides in this area by partnering with Corazon and the Raven at the Candidates' Forum. In the Spring, we will be partnering with the City of Healdsburg and other organizations for an Earth Day event. Plans are still in their infancy, but if you are interested in volunteering at the event, let **Ty Benoit**, our Public Policy Director know. The board will have Outreach as a regular agenda item at our monthly meetings.

The Monday after Thanksgiving, I was interviewed by Elaine B. Holtz on Women's Spaces," the local radio station KBBF 89.1's show about AAUW, through a connection made by our member Kathleen Riley. If you'd like to listen to the interview you can go to the [Women's Spaces Radio Show](#). I was under quite a bit of stress that day, as my husband was receiving two surprise stents as I was being interviewed, so I didn't even mention our Public Policy work. Ugh!

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

I think we all realize that we are a somewhat homogeneous group; we are seen as older, retired women (I won't go on). We need to look for ways to not only change our image but to change our makeup. AAUW National is recommending that every branch create a DEI Officer position, so I am looking for someone who finds that opportunity of interest. If you are that person, please contact me.

Finally, I wish you all the happiest of holidays and a safe and healthy New Year.

-Laura Tredinnick

Tech Tip

The password to the Members Only section of the website is included with every update of the Membership Directories. Check the email announcing the update for the most current password which is in a December 6 email to members.



STATE NEWS

The State Board is looking for new members. To nominate someone, apply for a position yourself, or just to find out more about it, click [here](#). The positions they are looking for are:

- President-Elect (three-year term 2023-2026)
- CFO (two-year term 2023-2025)
- Four Directors (two-year term 2023-2025)

November 8th was a good day for women! The election is finally over. AAUW members can be happy with the results. Here are a few highlights:

- One woman was added to each house of Congress: the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, bringing the numbers to 124 (H) and 25 (S).
- Of the total of 149 women, 54 are women of color.
- With Nancy Pelosi stepping down as Speaker of the House, we lost the most powerful woman's voice in government, but still have a woman on the minority leadership team, Minority Whip Katherine Clark.
- Governors of 12 states are now women.
- 23% of all mayors across the nation are women, including our brand new and first woman mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass.
- 32 women won seats in the California Legislature (total confirmed 44, 3 pending)
- All executive positions in California except Governor are filled by women, including Secretary of State, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Controller.
- Proposition 1 prevailed and a woman's right to control her own reproductive choices is now enshrined in our constitution.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

One idea the State Board suggested was to schedule a lunch at a local ethnic restaurant and invite the owner to educate the attendees about their culture. I think that sounds fun!

Laura Tredinnick, Branch President



Mission Based Programs

Reading Rocks



Reading Rocks is our AAUW program that pairs AAUW members with a teacher to assist first and second grade students with their reading skills. Most Reading Rocks volunteers read one-to-one with the students one to two days a week for 60-90 minutes. Healdsburg Elementary and Westside School are the two schools that participate in our program; **Diane Burnley** and **Pat Bertapelle** are the co-coordinators.

Each year, to encourage and support students as they learn to read, our AAUW Reading Rocks Program gives a book to each first grade student. In addition, each first grade teacher receives a few books to use with lessons and to add the classroom library. The books were distributed at Healdsburg Elementary on Wednesday, December 14, by **Judy Biondolillo**, **Carol Callagan**, **Liz Loebel**, and **Diane Burnley**. **Catherine Mock** was there to assist and take photos. The books were distributed on Tuesday, December 13 at Westside by **Pat Bertapelle**, **Georgia Helthall**, **Theresa Cabral**, and **Angele Rice** with lovely pictures below. Each school's staff expressed their appreciation for the generosity.

Diane Burnley, Co-coordinator for Reading Rocks_



TECH TREK IS GONNA BE 25!!



That's right! Think about it... across the state, daughters of Tech Trek alumnae may be in the next few batches of campers the branches select!

State Tech Trek Leadership wants to do something special in 2023 to commemorate such an important milestone in AAUW California's legacy. They are working on finding the donors and campers from 1998 forward to help celebrate TT's 25th anniversary.

They have the names and addresses of Tech Trekkers from 25 years ago but need help tracking them down so they can be included in the celebration! Contact techtrek@aauw-ca.org if you can help track the girls of 1998 and forward!

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

Social Programs

Holiday Party

The Holiday Party was a smashing success at Smith Story. Everyone lit up the mood and ambience by wearing their finest Healdsburg regalia and roaring in, readily prepared to open a new day of socialization and camaraderie after a few years of just standing by. Now we're standing in! Let's make 2023 historic for our amazing membership, welcoming in new motivated members, nurturing our best programs with more attention and love, participating in our wonderful, wide-ranging activities, representing and hand holding and hand raising for our democracy and justice, and joining those hands as friends and advocates. We are all so fortunate to be a part of an organization that recognizes and cares for its community's well being and well thinking!!



Wine N Dine



SAVE THE DATE!

Winter Wine 'N Dine
Saturday, February 4, 2023

Venues to be determined.
Watch for the eblast in early January!

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

Scholarship

Scholarship Success Story

Isabel Nunez Perez's Story

2017 recipient of an AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship



I grew up in Alexander Valley outside of Healdsburg on a vineyard with my family. My parents still live and work there; my father has been working that land for almost 35 years. In 2017 I graduated from Healdsburg High School which is when I received your Healdsburg AAUW \$5,000 scholarship which allowed me to focus on academics freshmen year without worrying about finances.

This scholarship also gave me the confidence to push forward as I challenged myself academically and re-located to Oregon. Going to university out-of-state was one of my biggest goals at the time. I remember feeling on top of the world when my name was announced as the recipient of one of the largest single scholarships awarded that night. I was in complete shock and so were some of my peers. No one who applied for this scholarship was aware of the potential \$5,000; applicants were only informed of a fraction of that amount. It was a very validating experience, as at that time I was pursuing Engineering, knowing that very few women and even fewer Latinas were in that field. It made me feel seen and that others also believed in this message of supporting young people, especially first generation-students, children of immigrants.

My transition to college was very rough. I still find it difficult to reflect on my first year and the unprecedented challenges that I had moving to Oregon. The diversity, comfort, and language of California was a security that I didn't realize I had until I left. I

describe this transition as a deafening silence that enclosed me and threatened to suffocate me; not hearing spoken Spanish, not being able to see myself in a stranger's face and, at some point in my time in Oregon, I also developed a mortal fear for my life.

There have been many Healdsburg grads before me who attended Oregon State that wouldn't have faced these challenges because they did not look like me or move through the world as me. What grounded me was an incredible community of women and femmes of color that I found when taking my first Spanish class. I began to develop more confidence in myself, feel secure in my decision making and speaking up for what is right. Through developing a close-knit network of peers, we were able to fight, organize and build our way through shared experiences of discrimination at its many intersections.

In my second year, I switched to Political Science, as my community has always been affected by unjust systems of government and understanding these systems has also been a lifelong passion of mine. I then learned how to navigate legislative spaces, advocate, and lobby at the state capitol in Salem, as well as develop my organizing skills. My friends then gave me the courage to run for student body president. My VP and I were the first dual Latina ticket to run and be elected. This opportunity did not come without its own set of challenges, of course, but it was an amazing experience. * I graduated from Oregon State University in June 2021 with a bachelor's in Political Science, option in Law and Politics, and a minor in Spanish.

Leading up to graduation I knew I had to come back to California to heal; so, I've relocated to Oakland to work with youth on probation. I support them in their personal goals, advocate for them, and help them and their families navigate the systems. I have found that I really enjoy working with teenagers. Your scholarship gave me courage to fight for myself and others and to show the youth and families that I now work with that despite their circumstances, someone believes in them too.

***Sharing this Important Insight:**

Every ASOSU President receives the privilege of addressing the graduating students at commencement. If you'd like to hear this, my 2021 address is accessible on this platform. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXRFOGejstE&t=2514s>



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.

HAPPY
NEW YEAR