

# The Grapevine

February 2023

Volume 38, Number 6



## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & ENRICHING THOUGHT

Winter 2023 Online Course — Registration begins December 1

As the war in Ukraine rages on, we are fortunate to have acclaimed Russian-American writer, social historian, and New York Times contributor Anastasia Edel give us an in-depth understanding of this conflict affecting the entire world. To **REGISTER** and see a complete description of the course on our AAUW web page, click [here](#).



**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

Click [here](#) to see a live recording of Anastasia Edel telling you about the course:

This class will be presented only online (Zoom) and will also be recorded to allow students to view classes at their convenience. The recorded videos of the class will be available online through April 30th. Because recordings of the class are available, registration is allowed after February 2nd.

**Remember**, this is a fund raiser, and all our net proceeds go to support our local educational programs and scholarships for women and girls. Please tell your friends and family.

-Celeste Plaister, Forum Chair

## President's Message



### What is that wet stuff?

After several years of less-than-normal rainfall (believe it or not, the historical average is 42 inches annually) we are adjusting to getting too much all at once! This has caused hardships for many of us and our neighbors. My hope is that all of you have stayed safe and are able to recover from any issues you faced. The good news is that our reservoirs are filling, and we may not have the same water restrictions that we have had during the past couple of years.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

I am thrilled to announce that **Donna Riley** has stepped forward to lead our DEI efforts. She will be working closely with Ty Benoit and the Public Policy Committee as their missions weave together and complement each other. Donna plans to start out learning from published materials and by interviewing community members about their experiences and perspectives. I look forward to hearing what she learns.

### An invitation from Santa Rosa's Public Policy Committee

Join us in hearing the Northern California CEO of Planned Parenthood speak about critical issues affecting women today. The talk will be on March 8th from 3 pm - 4:30 pm at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa. A flyer will be forthcoming and will be shared with you through an eBlast.

### Step up to Leadership

February is when the nominating committee starts reaching out to members to fill leadership roles. Our Vice President, **Nancy Jane Andrews**, will be leading the committee. If you have an interest in a leadership role, let Nancy Jane know. If you get a call from a committee member asking you to consider a leadership role, look at the job description on the website. We have had success with two people sharing one role, so think of a friend you might want to share it with. Then, say "YES!"

### End of year Party

Mark your calendars for our End of Year Party to be held on Saturday, May 20. We will have a chance to get together, connect with each other, and celebrate our achievements. This will be a mid-day potluck as usual.

-Laura Tredinnick



## Public Policy

### DISCOVER YOUR “INESCAPABLE NETWORK OF MUTUALITY”

Tyra Benoit, AAUW Healdsburg Public Policy Committee Chair

**"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."**

—Letter from a Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963

It's been fifty-five years since Martin Luther King's assassination. As I write this column on his birthday, I remember that I was in my first year of college, eagerly devouring books that revealed to me how much I had been sheltered by my white, middle class existence. Learning from black college friends, I became active in the civil rights movement. I vowed to give future students the knowledge and awareness that I had missed. My diverse colleagues and many students also helped immensely as I rounded out my education. Like all of you in AAUW, I remain an eager, lifelong learner.

February is Black History Month. The California AAUW Public Policy Committee put out this article about the black women who have contributed to American history. Perhaps it's time for each of us to read a new book or watch a film about one or two of these women and then take some action to further the public policy agenda of our organization. The base of that public policy is "Social and Racial Justice for all Members of Society." If you read the fine print carefully in the pyramid, you will see how it informs our local public policy work.

Here are a couple of events that our Public Policy Committee decided to work on this spring.

**Equal Pay Day is March 15** but that date is misleading. Consider that for black women, Equal Pay Day doesn't happen until September 21. For Latinas, it is December 8. Stay tuned for more details about an event in mid-March. We are hoping to collaborate with AVFilm and a local restaurant.

**An Earth Day Climate Fest is scheduled for April 22** from 1-4 p.m. in the Healdsburg City Plaza. This event will be co-hosted by Climate Action Healdsburg, a local grassroots climate action group, and the City of Healdsburg. Our AAUW Board agreed to be a partner and our committee will be looking for volunteers to help with the event so please mark your calendars now! If you think about the AAUW foundational public policy document, you will see that supporting the UN Sustainability Goals for women and girls across the world is on the list. Goal #13 is Climate Action and what we do here in Sonoma County can definitely have an impact on our "network of mutuality." Please email [judyfujita@gmail.com](mailto:judyfujita@gmail.com) if you want to help plan the Fest.

The **City of Healdsburg's meeting for its DEI Plan** was held at the Healdsburg Community Center Multi-Purpose Room (1557 Healdsburg Avenue). The title of these events is Community Encuentro and Thursday's session was "Indigenous Voices of Healdsburg: Going Beyond Land Acknowledgements." You can read more about their plan and upcoming events [here](#).

Finally, if you were familiar with the women on the AAUW list I included and need more of a challenge, check out this [NY Times article by Nikita Stewart written on the 50th anniversary of MLK's death](#). Have you heard of Dorothy Height, Septima Clark, or Gloria Richardson (pictured to the left)? As for me, writing this column piqued my interest in two books that I haven't read. One is "My Life, My Love, My Legacy", by Coretta Scott King and the other is "Subversive Habits", by Shannen Dee Williams, a young historian at the University of Dayton. I hope you will join me and search for some new books or films that interest you.



## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

As your DEI Officer, a new role in the Healdsburg AAUW, I am excited to work with the Public Policy group to bring these critical strategies into our fold, through working and volunteering with various Latina and minority groups, studying the issues, reading tons of books and using other media on the many issues bringing DEI to our forefront, and working with other DEI Officers from all over the state of California to share common practices. Surprisingly, my first book is "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for Dummies", by Dr. Shirley Davis who has over 30 years of experience on the topic. It's a well-written and takes a deep dive into DEI in the workplace for all levels of personnel.

-Donna Riley, DEI Officer

## Mission Based Programs

### Teacher Holiday Gift Drive

Thank you for your donations towards our teacher supplies holiday gift drive. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise \$1185! The teachers at Healdsburg Elementary, Fitch Mountain Campus, and West Side School were thrilled to receive our generous gifts.

Mrs. Jennifer Kettmann, one of the teacher recipients writes -

“Dear AAUW Members, Thanks for providing books to each of my first grade students and class books as well! Each student was so excited to take their book home. Your efforts to encourage reading are making a difference, and for this I am truly thankful.”

*Thank you,*

***Catherine Mock and Beth Wolk, Mission Based Programs Chairs***



## Social Programs

### Disney Museum Tour



### Cultural Event - February 16

Please join us for a tour of the Disney Family Museum in the Presidio, San Francisco. Click [here](#) for more information.

This is not a museum just for kids. It provides a history of cartoons, toys, and movies in the 20th century, Roy and Walt Disney's involvement in the labor movement, McCarthyism, the CIA, and the creation of Disneyland. It is not to be missed.

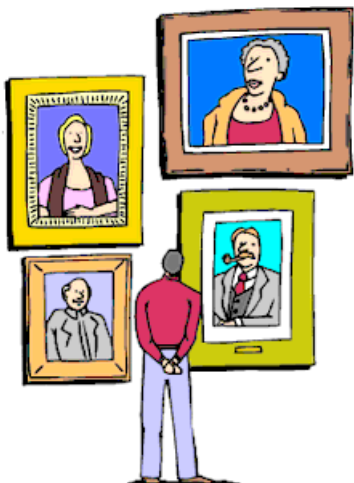
There will be an hour-long guided tour and then half an hour or so to explore the museum. We will purchase lunch from the food trucks across the street from the Museum and walk to the Tunnel Tops. This is a fantastic new park on top of the tunnel over Highway 101. The views are impressive as you can see [here](#). There is an enclosed area with tables if the weather is a bit chilly.

There is a limit of 25 people. We will be divided into 2 groups. The cost of admission and the tour is \$24. Please RSVP to me and mail a check made out to me by January 31. 219 Ferrero Dr., Healdsburg, CA. 95448, lizloebel@gmail.com

If you would like to bring a guest, let me know. I will put them on the waiting list. If we are less than 25 by Jan 31, I will add those from the waiting list first come, first served.

Plan to meet at City Hall to carpool at 9am and returning by 3-3:30.

**-Liz Loebel , Co-Chair Cultural Committee**



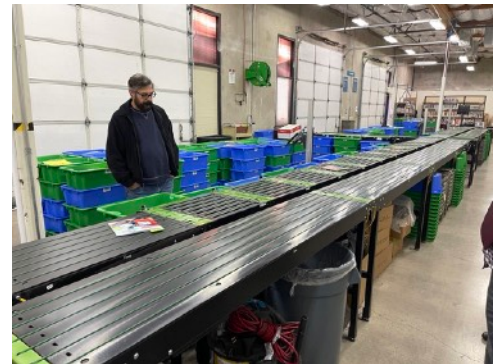
## **Rohnert Park Library Headquarters Tour**



**Kathleen Riley** did a great job organizing our tour of the Sonoma County Library Headquarters on 1/24. Erika Thibault, Interim Director, and more than seven of her staff were on hand to welcome us. Presentations were made by Erika, Jaime Anderson, Digital Library, who gave a fascinating presentation on the multitude of



through the library system. IT Director, Mike, talked about the 'pivot' that had to be made when the pandemic shut down all of the libraries. And Craig discussed fundraising efforts under way to help build a multi-use site for a Roseland library, aquatic center and fire station among others. Measure Y from the 2016 election brought a much needed injection of funds (SoCo Libraries went from 150 employees to 300 and from a \$25M annual budget to \$40M. Still, building such a 21st century model is an expensive proposition, and the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation is hard at work to raise funds (\$3.6M) for this and other 21st century initiatives. We are told that the Healdsburg Library will be the second in the 14 library chain to receive book lockers for after hours pick up of materials. We took a tour of the materials



collection area as well as the Automated Material Handling site where up to 10,000 books can be scanned and moved within the automated system to reach their designated library. We took a tour of the BiblioBus to round out the tour.



There's a myriad of services available online. The most popular are Libby by Overdrive, Hoopla, Canopy and America's News & Magazines - all accessible at <https://sonomalibrary.org/>. The county library system has over 3000 computers. Users can even check out Hot Spots. There are over 250 of them and can be used for three weeks at a time. You can even check out from the Camera Library - everything from a GoPro to a \$5000 video camera!! We got to see a 3d printer at work. There are 2 sound studios in the system available to cardholders. There are over 500,000 residents in Sonoma County, and more than 50% of them have library cards. Do you?

**-Donna Riley**

# Scholarship

## Scholarship Success Story



### **Kim Taylor-Hammer's Story**

#### 2018 Recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC & Garden Scholarships

I was honored to receive your request for an update on my education and career, and nearly so surprised that it has already been 5 years since I was awarded this scholarship. Time truly does fly when you're having fun and, it turns out, when you're achieving your dreams.

Following my attendance at SRJC, I was accepted into the Sonoma State University BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) nursing program, where your scholarship allowed me to focus as much attention as possible on the challenging coursework and busy schedule of a nursing student, while raising my two amazing kids. The intensity of the two-year program culminated in two simultaneous preceptorships; my Public Health preceptorship in home health nursing and my Nursing preceptorship in Labor and Delivery. Then, as you know, in March of 2020 another lesson in resiliency had our class scrambling to find a way to complete our contact hours virtually and graduate among the peak chaos of the pandemic with a distinct lack of both pomp and circumstance. Graduate, I did, however, managing somehow to do so with honors.

Shortly after my graduation, my father was diagnosed with stage 4 kidney cancer. I stayed at my parents' home in Salem, Oregon for the next few months putting my home health preceptorship to good use caring for my father while I studied for the NCLEX (the RN exam). By the end of the summer 2020, I had obtained my RN and PHN licenses and my father was in remission. Today, he is fully recovered, although down a kidney and has returned to life as usual.

Although I had fully expected to become a labor and delivery nurse, I think one lesson this pandemic has taught me is to not cling too tightly to my plans, because the universe sometimes has something so much better waiting for us. I was hired almost immediately by a private practice OBGYN in San Francisco as a women's health advice nurse. I absolutely loved it, and really enjoyed the patients I spoke with, giving advice on everything from breastfeeding to ectopic pregnancies. As much as I enjoyed the job, I dearly missed patient care and wanted to work closer to home. I started my dream job in March of 2022 working for the County of Sonoma as a Public Health Nurse for the Community and Family Health Home Visiting program. I get to work with clients who really need the support, helping pregnant people and parents of kids under age 5 in their homes. I offer education, nursing skills, and empathy to my clients as well as connect them to community resources for a variety of needs including diapers, housing, substance use programs, mental health care, and food. I love going to work every day, feeling like I'm doing good for people that need help, and have used my experience in childbirth and breastfeeding many times to help women breastfeed and care for their babies. If that wasn't enough, the job allows me great flexibility in hours, working from home, and an incredibly supportive environment committed to my growth and longevity as a Public Health Nurse.

Without being hyperbolic, I can tell you that I am now working at my dream job and am no longer a single mother. My partner Sean and I recently moved in to a three-bedroom house, my two girls who so kindly dealt with their mom's crazy schedule are now thriving in 6th and 9th grade, and we are all happier than ever. I am now, for the first time in my life, able to think about what I want out of life, and how I want my life and my future to look instead of simply surviving or treading water. I would not be where I am today without my education, and my education was greatly supported by your generous scholarships. For that, my gratitude is unceasing, and my life a testimony to the good you are doing.

With my Deepest Gratitude and Respect,  
Kim Taylor-Hammer

# Membership

## *New Members*

### **Catherine Barnett**



Catherine is about as native as one can get—being a fifth generation Sonoman and a forty-year resident of Healdsburg. But in a way, she is just getting to know her town as a relative new retiree. As the executive editor for the Press Democrat and with her kids in Santa Rosa schools, Catherine had little time to explore Healdsburg or its inhabitants.

Catherine’s tenure at the paper lasted forty-four years, (starting when she was an intern) through three different owners (from the NYT to its current family ownership) and included receipt of a Pulitzer Prize for the paper’s coverage of the devastating Tubbs Fire in 2017. She had intended to retire before the pandemic, but remained at the paper through 2020, seeing it past the initial disruptions of the stay-at-home orders.

In addition to playing with her grandchild, Catherine has volunteered with the Wild Goat Edge Mentoring program started by Judy Jordan and Los Cien, as a member of their programming committee. According to Catherine, one of the “lovely surprises” of hiking with the Monday AAUW group, is getting to know some of the newer residents of her town.

### **Linda Vrabel**



Linda grew up in Upstate New York. She has since been moving westward with stops in Cleveland, Chicago, Denver, Southern Utah and now Santa Rosa. Having always wanted to live on the West Coast to be closer to family, it’s a good place to land. “I guess if the pattern continues, we may end up in Hawaii some day.”

Linda has a soft spot for AAUW because after a divorce, she decided to go back to school and get her nursing degree. She was a single mother of two, working full-time and going to school full-time. She had two semesters to graduate and needed assistance to complete the program. She applied for several scholarships, including one from AAUW. Apparently they couldn’t decide whether she or another applicant should receive the money and decided to award both applicants the full amount. “That scholarship had a big impact on my career. I was able to finish my degree without interruption and went on to have a fulfilling and rewarding career.” Yes, AAUW scholarships can really change lives!

With her degree, Linda began her nursing career which led her from critical care into case management and eventually into administration. During this time she worked in upstate New York, in Cleveland at the Cleveland Clinic and in Chicago at Michael Reese, before moving to Denver and, after 12 more years of work, finally retirement.





*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](mailto:hollypschatz@gmail.com). Phone - 415-305-4559.*

It is with a touch of sadness that I am leaving my role as Grapevine Publisher. But I move into a new and exciting position as DEI Officer. I look forward to working with our community on diversity, equity and inclusion topics, and I will have the good fortune to engage with other chapters across California who are bringing DEI Officers on board. I want to thank my stellar editors, **Judy Edmonds** and **Ronie Reiley**. Also, please welcome **Kim Brown** as the new Grapevine Publisher. Kim's contact info is below, and her Grapevine work begins with the March 2023 issue.

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 Kim Brown at [krb.jlb@gmail.com](mailto:krb.jlb@gmail.com).

happy  
valentines