

# The Grapevine

April 2023

Volume 38, Number 8



**Time to Sign Up for our Spring Forum with Dr. Michael Baker (ret. Rear Admiral)**



**Dr. Michael Baker**

**The Use and Misuse of America's Military**

**Six Tuesdays - 10:45 am - 12:30 pm, April 11 - May 16**

**On Zoom (Recordings Available), and Possible In-Person Classes \***

Starting Tuesday, April 11, we are fortunate to begin a powerful and timely lecture series entitled the Use and Misuse of America's Military. Our instructor, Dr. Michael Baker, is a retired Rear Admiral and trauma surgeon, with experience in operational medicine, combat deployment, medical intelligence, and strategic planning. He has taught multiple well received courses for the UC Berkeley Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program and is a sought after speaker on the topic of our involvement in Ukraine and other military engagements. He returns this month from a trip to Ukraine to assist the Ukrainians with casualty care.

Click [here](#) to get to know Dr. Baker, and listen to a moving and informative lecture on his recent visits to Ukraine entitled: Teaching Casualty Care in Ukraine: Helping Ukrainians Defend Themselves and Their Homeland.

**Here is a brief syllabus for his upcoming AAUW course:**

Week 1 – How the military and the world looked in 1945

Week 2 – The first military engagement of the Cold War: Korea

Week 3 – How we got involved in the Vietnam conflict and how it affected the American psyche

Week 4 – How the US became mired in a 20-year fiasco in Afghanistan that was doomed to failure

Week 5 – Why the US destroyed Iraq for WMDs (that were not present)

Week 6 – We have a choice of subjects:

A. How recent wars have worn down our military and scarred generations of veterans

B. The role of military; its relation to civil society; how it can be used to prevent the proper transfer of power

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

\*We plan to present this class on Zoom. If interest and enrollment is large enough, we may return to the Raven Performing Arts Center for some in-person classes. As with our other courses, class recordings will be available to all students. **Note that the classes begin at 10:45 am.**

Please encourage your friends and family to register for class! Remember, this course is a fundraiser for our AAUW programs and scholarships.

**Celeste Plaister**

Forum Chair

## President's Message



Hello AAUW Members,

### **Membership Renewal:**

We will begin membership renewals in May. In addition to the information sent out by the national organization, **Janice Sexton**, Membership Director, will send detailed instructions to make the process easier for you.

The big news this month is that our dues are going up to \$125 from the current \$112. I know this is not welcome news, but it is reality. Costs have increased for everything. National dues will be increasing by \$5 to \$72. This is the third year of a \$5 increase each year which National instituted in 2021. This is not a cost we can change. State dues will remain at \$20 per year. Local dues will be increasing by \$8 to \$33. This may seem like a large amount; however looking back at our financials, we have not increased our local dues for at least seven years. The board voted on this increase in order to catch up with current costs and to prevent another dues increase in the foreseeable future.

### **What do our local dues fund?**

- Basic business costs such as our storage locker, insurance, taxes and fees, PO box, software, website maintenance, office supplies, brochures, and postage
- A donation to National (which we have decreased). For the first time, we designated our donation to be split between the Education and Training Fund, which will receive \$1,500 and the National Conference for College Women Student Leader Scholarships which will receive \$500
- A donation to Tech Trek
- Public Policy Events where we pay for a location and interpretation

### **Recognition from the City Council:**

On Monday, March 6, **Tyra Benoit** and I accepted a proclamation from the Healdsburg City Council recognizing Women's History Month and Equal Pay Day. Thanks to Mayor Kelley for the well researched and fact-filled proclamation she compiled. You will find it following this article. This proclamation was dear to my heart in that the roots of Women's History Month started here in Sonoma County, led by Molly McGregor and Mary Ruthsdotter. Through their passion and advocacy between the years of 1980 and 1987, they :

- Formed the National Women's History Project (NWHP)
- Produced curriculum guides, teacher training programs, and videos on women's history
- Lobbied State Governments and the U.S. Congress

This ultimately culminated in 1987 when Women's History Week was expanded to a month, with a proclamation from President Ronald Reagan.

With sincere wishes for Women's Equality,

**Laura Tredinnick**

President, Healdsburg AAUW

CITY OF HEALDSBURG  
PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HEALDSBURG DECLARING  
MARCH 2023 AS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH AND MARCH 14, 2023 AS EQUAL PAY  
DAY IN THE CITY OF HEALDSBURG

WHEREAS, women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of Healdsburg in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, women play a critical economic, cultural and social role in every sphere of life in Healdsburg; and

WHEREAS, particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic and cultural institutions in our City, women have served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

WHEREAS, women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist, emancipation, industrial labor, civil rights, and peace and environmental movements, which have created a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of women has consistently been overlooked and undervalued in the literature, leadership, teaching and study of American history and it is therefore fitting that we recognize their numerous accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, more than 50 years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act, women, especially women of color, continue to suffer the consequences of unequal pay; and

WHEREAS, nearly four in 10 mothers are primary breadwinners in their households, and nearly two-thirds are primary or significant earners, making pay equity critical to families’ economic security; and

WHEREAS, according to The Report of on the Status of Women and Girls in California™, 2020, for every \$100 of wealth held by white men, white women (aged 18 – 64) have \$74, Latinas have \$3, and African American women have 80 cents; and

WHEREAS, fair pay equity policies can be implemented simply and without undue costs or hardship in both the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, fair pay strengthens the security of families today and eases future retirement costs while enhancing the American economy; and

WHEREAS, Tuesday, March 14, 2023 symbolizes the time in 2023 when the wages paid to American women catch up to the wages paid to men from the previous year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City Council of the City of Healdsburg hereby declares March 2023 as Women’s History Month and March 14, 2023 as Equal Pay Day in the City of Healdsburg to recognize the full value of women’s skills and significant contributions to Healdsburg.

DATED: March 6, 2023

SO ORDERED:

Ariel Kelley, Mayor





## STATE AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! GET READY FOR THE [Academy AAUWards](#) COMING ON APRIL 22, 2023, 9:00 AM ON YOUR ZOOM SCREEN!**

We have two amazing speakers planned for you amongst all the red-carpet happenings and awards. We will be hearing from AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell. Gloria is also our main representative to the United Nations. Gloria spent 15 years managing our Fellowships and Grants program, awarding over \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas. She has worked to increase girls' participation in STEM and to increase AAUW's outreach to girls and women of color. We will also get to meet Secretary Eileen M. Vélez Vega, who is serving as the first woman Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works. Ms. Velez Vega, an engineer who is a fierce advocate for girls in STEM, has an inspiring story to tell. She is also a colleague of our very own Tech Trek Program Director, Mary Issac. Get ready for a fun-filled event worthy of a Hollywood red carpet. Join us on April 22nd as we celebrate AAUW California and our fantastic branches and members!

### **DEI STATEWIDE CHAT: WHAT IS JABEID? AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO AAUW?**

How can we co-create spaces and embody Justice, Accessibility, Belonging, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (JABEID)? We often hear these terms but may struggle with ways we can put them into practice in our branch meetings, programs, and outreach. Join us for a rich conversation led by Dr. Lata Muri, Co-President of the Santa Maria Branch. Dr. Murti is Associate Professor of Sociology for the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Global and author of *With and Without the White Coat: The Racialization of Southern California's Indian Physicians*.

You won't want to miss this conversation on Monday, March 27th at 6 pm! Click [HERE](#) to register. Individuals with access or accommodation needs can reach out to [diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org) prior to the event.

### **THE GENDER PAY GAP IS ALIVE AND NOT WELL!**

Big news this month is that National is changing its methodology and terminology in terms of discussing the gender pay gap. They are asking that we no longer talk about it in terms of "the day that women 'catch up' to men," the feeling being that we will never catch up! They are asking that we focus on the size of the gap itself. They are providing statistics specifying that the gap for "all women vs all men for all full-time workers" = 84%; and for "all women vs all men for all workers, including part-time and seasonal" = 77%. These are the numbers that will be used for the "all women" Equal Pay Day date of March 14th. For all non-white women, the same measurement is being applied within that group and specific dates have been assigned. See [National's Equal Pay page](#) for percentages and dates.

Other big news: National has finally hired a new Public Policy Director. Her name is Meghan Kissell. She was the Public Policy Field Director in 2012-15.

Finally, in state news: The state Public Policy Committee will meet this weekend to determine our legislative agenda for 2023-24; results will be sent for inclusion in branch newsletters. Stay tuned.



## Earth Day Climate Fest

I am a climate migrant but I consider myself one of the lucky ones. After losing our home in the Wikiup area of Santa Rosa in 2017, we chose not to rebuild and moved to Healdsburg. We had decent insurance and a great deal of support and love from our friends and family. Financially, we did not struggle. Sadly, this is not the case for most people across the world who have been directly impacted by climate change. Most of those affected have done very little to cause the crisis that we face.

In our community, as a result of the 11 atmospheric rivers that have swept through California this winter, there is severe need. Have you stopped to think about what happened to those who were not able to work because of the pouring rain and flooded fields? What about people who live in homes that are not properly maintained and have leaky roofs or poor drainage? I met a woman at the Corazon Healdsburg office in January who showed me the condition of her kitchen ceiling. Her landlord had patched the roof but there was mold everywhere. The weather during the month of March made things even worse. These families are unable to pay their upcoming rent or utility bills. PG&E gas bills have also skyrocketed.

The Lancet Foundation suggested in 2018 that there would soon be one billion climate migrants. The United Nations suggests that 80% of climate migrants world wide are women.

You can do something to address this and gather with others from your community. Your AAUW Healdsburg Public Policy Committee is partnering with Climate Action Healdsburg and the City of Healdsburg. We are planning an Earth Day Climate Fest on April 22 from 1-4 pm in the Plaza. We hope to inspire residents to take action in a wide variety of ways. There will be booths with interactive educational activities and ours will be focused on “Women and the Climate Crisis.” We need volunteers to help with this event so please email me to get involved.

**Tyra Benoit**  
Public Policy Director



**Climate Fest**  
**EARTH DAY 2023**  
**SAT, APRIL 22 • 1 – 4 PM**  
**HEALDSBURG PLAZA**

GATHER ♥ CELEBRATE ♥ LEARN ♥ EXPERIENCE ♥ PLAY

ENJOY THE PLAZA FILLED WITH  
**FREE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES**

- \* Interactive Booths & Informational Displays
- \* Bicycle Rodeo & Fire Truck
- \* Electric Car/Vehicle Show
- \* Earth Protectors Parade
- \* Creative Crafts for Kids
- \* Music & Speakers
- \* Delightful Surprises!

Co-HOSTED by  
**Climate Action**  
HEALDSBURG

CITY OF HEALDSBURG  
CALIFORNIA SINCE 1907

**SCAN to Learn more**  
[www.ClimateActionHealdsburg.org](http://www.ClimateActionHealdsburg.org)

**Facebook**  
Healdsburg Climate Fest

**Email**  
HealdsburgClimate@yahoo.com

Lecture on the First Five Images from JWST:  
The James Webb Space Telescope



**Mary Barsony**, Ph.D., astrophysicist and Tech Trek Fundraising Chair, will be presenting a public lecture on the first five images from the James Webb Space Telescope. The lecture will be held at Gravenstein Grill in Sebastopol, 8050 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472, at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 27, 2023, and is 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](mailto:daniel@economicbuzzcafe.com), or \$10 at the door.

Christmas Day, 2021 saw the flawless launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to its home at a gravitationally stable point near the Moon. A six month commissioning period ensued, followed by NASA's July 12, 2022 press release of JWST's first five images. These were of the Carina Nebula star-forming region, the gravitationally interacting galaxies of Stephan's Quintet, the planetary nebular end-of-life phase of Sun-like stars captured in the image of the Southern Ring Nebula, the spectrum of the exoplanetary atmosphere of Wasp 96-b, and the deepest and sharpest images of distant galaxies ever observed in the infrared through the gravitational lens of SMACS 0723. The current frontiers of knowledge in each of the above astronomical sub-fields will be provided as background in order to appreciate what you are looking at in each image.

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.



## Mission Based Programs

### Future Prep and High School Career Events

**Dena Lash** and **Caroline Mercer**, Chairs of the Future Prep Committee, planned and helped execute a Career Panel at Healdsburg High School on March 7. Six professionals from the medical field came to discuss and answer questions about their careers with the students. In total, there were six tables of interested and engaged students participating. Another Career Panel will be held in May.

Along with the career panel, AAUW members attended the presentation of Junior class internship projects on March 9. They were among Healdsburg High School staff, mentors, and other community members who gave feedback on students' community service activities.

**Catherine Mock** and **Beth Wolk**  
Co-Directors, Mission Based Programs



## What's Up with 2023 Tech Trek?



Even though Tech Trek has become quite a popular program for the CA AAUW Branches, our Branch was again fortunate to be allocated eight camper slots. Our campers will attend Tech Trek Camp at Sonoma State University (SSU). The SSU campus will host two separate weeks this year. Four of our campers will attend June 18-24, and four will attend camp July 16-22.

The recruitment process for qualified campers was in full swing by February. Teacher contacts from five junior high schools were asked to recommend two to three students for this program, and a total of thirteen student names were submitted. Although recommended, not all of the girls chose to participate. During March, my team and I interviewed 10 girls to choose our eight attendees and one alternate. This was a very impressive group of 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls which made the selection process very difficult.

Prior to the June camp, we will hold a Meet & Greet with the selected students, their parents and their teachers. AAUW members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Stay tuned for an invite via an eBlast.

For those of you new to AAUW, Tech Trek is a week-long STEM camp for 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. To learn more about the program, go to our website: <https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net/stem/>

**Nancy Haiston**

Branch Tech Trek Coordinator



## Scholarship Success Stories

One of the most important things that we do as a branch is to raise funds to support scholarships for women and girls in our community. I have the pleasure of being the chair of High School Scholarships. In the Fall I send applications to the career counselors at Windsor, Geyserville, and Healdsburg High Schools. Students who are interested in applying for our scholarships fill out a comprehensive application which includes an essay, letter of recommendation, as well as transcripts and extracurricular activities. Our committee reads and discusses them in great detail and chooses as many students as we have the funding for. Last year we were able to award 12 scholarships to high school girls so they might attend a four year university. The students who are chosen write heartfelt thank you notes which express how grateful they are to receive a scholarship from AAUW Healdsburg. I'm lucky enough to read all of them and each one makes me smile. I'm sharing one of them so you, our generous branch members, can smile as well and realize that together as a branch, we change lives.

### **Beth Wolk**

High School Scholarship Chair



Dear AAUW Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much! I am beyond honored to have been a recipient of the AAUW Scholarship this year.

Due to your generosity, I am now a step closer to accomplishing my goals. This Fall I will be attending Cal Poly Humboldt and majoring in kinesiology with the hope of becoming a physical therapist. I want to have a positive impact on people's lives. Along with wanting to help others, my goal is to be able to support my parents, so they never have to work again. This scholarship will help me further my education and I am ready to work hard to do so.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to succeed. I will forever be grateful for your kindness. Receiving the AAUW Scholarship has felt as if a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I will, every day, continue to spread the kindness you have shown me. Also, if you ever need a physical therapist, I've got your back...maybe even literally.

Sincerely,

Isabella Figueroa

## April at a Glance

April 11, 18, 25	Spring Forum Tuesday Classes - The Use and Misuse of America's Military
April 15	Wine 'N Dine (Sign Up Deadline March 31)
April 19	Lunch Bunch - El Gallo Negro (RSVP and check due April 2)
April 22	Healdsburg Climate Fest (Healdsburg Plaza)
April 27	Lecture: The First Five Images from the James Webb Space Telescope

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 from Healdsburg AAUW. Email: [hollypschatz@gmail.com](mailto:hollypschatz@gmail.com). Phone: 415-305-4559

Published monthly, except in July and August. Please submit articles and announcements in WORD or PAGES, Calibri 12 pt font justified, and images in .jpeg by the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which you want them included. The Grapevine is available to the general public, therefore please be cautious about including personal information. Send articles to Kim Brown: [krb.jlb@gmail.com](mailto:krb.jlb@gmail.com).

