



The Branch

December 2020/January 2021
Vol 71, Issue 6



**Meet our Scholarship
Recipients
Join us at our Branch
Meeting
Saturday, December 5th**

Many thanks to all of our members who have made these scholarships possible by donating to the fund-raising that supports them. At our Branch Zoom meeting on December 5th you can meet our wonderful recipients and hear about their achievements and goals.

Program is 10 am and social time 9:30 to 10

Join us on Zoom. Just let your caller know that you plan to attend and you will receive a link by email the morning of the meeting.

Scholarships Awarded

Exciting news! The scholarship committee received applications from 6 very qualified candidates. It was a challenge for the committee to narrow it down, but after paper screening and interviews, we decided to award 3 scholarships. The applicants were all amazing, but three very dynamic, accomplished, and deserving HSU women stood out.

Hannah Bruckner is a life-long resident of Humboldt County who is dedicated to giving back to our community. Hannah has a Bachelor's of Social Work and will receive her Master's of Social Work in 2021. Hannah is a warm, caring person who can connect with others and bring together many resources to meet their needs. She has served a year in AmeriCorps and is currently an intern in the Fortuna school system. Her goal is to be a social worker in the school setting to meet students' mental health needs. She plans to obtain a PPSC (Pupil Personnel Services Credential) after she completes her Master's. Hannah receives a \$2000 scholarship.

Yavanna Reynolds is studying for her multi-subject teaching credential. She has Bachelor's degrees in Asian Studies and English Literature. She has taught pre-school and supervised student teachers. Currently, she is student teaching at Coastal Grove Charter School and serving on the school diversity committee to create curriculum that makes school an equitable place for all families. Yavanna is also a fashion designer who recently designed and sewed hundreds of masks that she then donated to the community. Yavanna receives a \$2000 scholarship.

Janelle Chojnacki is a graduate student studying for a Master's in Wildlife Science. She has a Bachelor's degree in Conservation and Resource Studies. Janelle is involved in wildlife research projects where she is known for her leadership, enthusiasm, and knowledge of

research techniques. In the future, she would like to start a non-profit research organization. In connection with the projects she has worked on, Janelle does outreach activities with high school and college students. She wants to encourage young women to consider a career in science. She also coaches soccer. She believes that a female soccer coach can be a good role model for players to have. Janelle receives a \$1000 scholarship.

AAUW GALA RAFFLE

Unfortunately due to the pandemic, there will be no Gala auction. However, there will be a drawing or raffle for five certificates each valued at \$25.00. Three are from Wildberries Market and two are from Cafe Brio.

You do not have to attend the meeting to win a certificate.

Thank you so much for supporting the Re-entry Scholarship Fund. Your support throughout the years have helped many special women pursue their goals.

Gala Committee 11.2020



President's Message

President's Letter December 2020

As we are nearing Thanksgiving and still practicing social distancing, I hope you all will have a good Thanksgiving, although it may be a novel Thanksgiving. I was also thinking about all the things for which I am grateful. One of the things I am grateful for is the friends I have made through AAUW. I moved to Arcata over 5 years ago not knowing anyone but my daughter and son-in-law. I have made wonderful friends here in Arcata through AAUW. I am so lucky to be near my daughter and her young family. We are able to socialize somewhat with them as I have childcare responsibilities for my grandsons. We are definitely not lonely and we are busy. I am so grateful we made the move to Arcata.

The November meeting about Title IX was so informative. Jane Teixeira is certainly a welcomed addition to our community. I want to thank Alex Stillman and Connie Stewart for arranging our speaker. I want to thank everyone who attended. We had over 40 attendees Saturday, November 7, despite the excitement of the presidential election finally being called.

Our Scholarship Committee has been hard at work culling through the applicants. I did hear that all the applicants were outstanding and it was hard to narrow it down but the committee has picked three applicants. I am so eager to hear their stories. This is an especially hard time for all schools and a difficult time for students financially. I am so proud of AAUW of Humboldt County because we can help these outstanding students at this time.

Thank you to Margaret Wallace and the scholarship committee. Also thank you to Connie Stewart for getting the word out about the AAUW Scholarship to the department heads at HSU. Our continued thanks go to Shelley for publishing our newsletter!

I will see you December 6 via Zoom. A link will be forthcoming.

Mary Lou Lowry, Branch President



The Most Magnificent Gift

by Sharon Ferrett

One of my favorite poets, Mary Oliver, wrote a lovely poem called *Mockingbirds*. She draws from a Greek fable about an impoverished old couple who respond to the knock on the door of by two strangers. These poor people were kind and wanted to be gracious, but they had no worldly gifts to give to these unbidden visitors. Despite their poverty, what they did have to offer was "their willingness to be attentive". The unexpected guests turned out to be gods who blessed their hosts for their generosity. They considered attentiveness to be the finest gift that could be given by mere mortals.

This poem resonates because it reminds us that attentiveness is indeed the most rare and wonderful of blessings. This "small" gift is more than a token of kindness; it has the power to transform and lift up spirits with the vitality of being seen. We respond when someone looks us in the eye, acknowledges our presence, and gives us individual attention. Think of someone who listens to you with interest and openness. Do you like that person? It is difficult to not be drawn to someone who connects and gives us this gift of attentiveness.

This personal engagement is even more important this year. It has been a tough year of isolation and uncertainty. Think of a sending someone a letter or note with your Christmas and holiday greeting. Tell them why they are important in your life. Instead of gifts, send a raincheck for lunch or movie when life returns to normal or consider taking a walk outside with friends with masks. Call friends on the phone and attentively listen. In other words, what can we do to give the gift of ourselves and our attention? What community groups, charities and scholarship funds can benefit from my generosity?

My grandchildren will get plenty of presents under the tree. Sam and I will wrap a few small gifts for their stockings, but our greatest gift will be of ourselves. We will include notes for walks, outings to the zoo, cooking together, movie and game nights. Most of all, I want to really pay attention and listen to them. I want them to feel valued and heard. I will remind myself of Oliver's touching poem and vow to be willing to be attentive this year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone!



The International Day of the Girl Turns 10 in the coming year, and the next one, too

The actual birthdate for a worldwide focus on girls is already 25, following the 1995 Beijing conference of 30,000 women and men from 200 countries to the fourth International Conference on Women and its Declaration and Platform for Action.

In 2011 Roma Ambrose, Canada's Minister for the Status of Women proposed International Day of the Girl to the United Nations, which voted to adopt the proposal and created October 11 as the annual date for celebration of the International Day of the Girl, naming October 11, 2012 as the inaugural day to address a theme for every year.

The 2020 Theme has been "My Voice, Our Equal Future."

Pointing toward the future, the world is now home to 1.1 billion girls under age 18, who are poised to become the largest generation of female leaders, entrepreneurs, and change-makers. On October 11 and throughout the year, the world has been, "Let's seize the opportunity to reimagine a better world inspired by energized and recognized girls."

Half of humanity is an equal partner in solving the problems of climate change, economic growth, disease prevention, and global sustainability. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 specific goals was adopted by world leaders in 2015, to create a roadmap for progress that leaves no one behind.

Did You Know?

- Next year around 435 million women and girls will be living on less than \$1.90 a day?
- At least 60% of countries still discriminate against daughters' rights to inherit land or other assets?
- Many global development plans do not include or consider girls?

The United Nations embraces international days as a powerful tool for advocacy, a key term in the AAUW Mission Statement. For more information, [click here](#)

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child>

Contributed by Jean Guthrie



Greetings Tech Trek Community!

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML) is excited to present an entirely new STEM project, Girls4STEM Webinars, a series of webinars for high school girls featuring young professional women in STEM fields.

The Girls4STEM webinar series is launching on Sunday, November 22, 2020. This webinar series introduces women working in STEM fields to high school girls who at this stage of their lives are making choices about high school coursework, in preparation for potential college majors and STEM careers. The presenters share their education and career paths, discuss their actual job activities, and provide tips for getting college internships and jobs after college.

Girls4STEM is free and open to all high school girls. Webinars will be offered 1-2 times per month on Sunday afternoons for up to 500 attendees. AAUW-OML is presenting this series as part of our community outreach projects, designed to advance equity for women and girls. A report published by USA Facts on 10/16/2020 says that while more women are earning STEM degrees than 10 years ago, women still earn only 32.4% of STEM degrees awarded. Our goal is to encourage high school girls to take STEM classes and major in a STEM field in college. This webinar series is made possible by a generous grant from the Bettelheim Family Foundation.

We are asking for your help to recruit high school girls to register for the webinars. We hope you will send the attached flyer to your family, friends, neighbors, anybody who knows high school girls who will benefit from the webinars and meeting some fantastic women in various STEM fields. The attached [flyer](#) lists the dates, times, and presenters for the first set of webinars, each featuring a different field within STEM. Attendees must sign up ahead of time for the webinars.

Click <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/> to find out more about the webinars, including bios of the presenters and the link for registering for each webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please share this exciting opportunity with your former tech trekkers.



Mary Bernadette "Pat" Holzinger

Pat Holzinger, a former member of our branch, passed away on October 6. Her family is planning a memorial service for her in the spring. You can view her obituary [HERE](https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/mary-holzinger-obituary?pid=196962153)
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/mary-holzinger-obituary?pid=196962153>

A Message from our November Speaker

In April 2020, I packed up the car and travelled 11 hours north to Humboldt County not knowing what to expect. You can imagine my anxiousness when just a few weeks prior the nation went into pause. Pause to help support the wonderful frontline workers, to do our part to slow the spread of this ever-changing virus.

What an eerie time to begin in a new place. However, what I am comforted by is that this transition has led me to know the incredible people of this community, HSU supporters & fans who believe so much in the HSU mission. As I gained my footing and met with a few hundred campus and community members, we got notification that our Fall competition opportunities would be stymied due to the virus. It was at this time; HSU Athletics pivoted and began planning of an unusual Fall semester. I cannot express how incredible the team has been. The coaches, athletic training, staff, and administrators have taken lemons and made lemonade. I am even more impressed by the resiliency of our student-athletes who every step of the way, have adjusted to all the "halftime" changes. They have stood up for injustice, they got out the vote, they have worked hard in the classroom and continue to grow in their athletic endeavors on the field, track or court. We are so proud of them and how they represent HSU, you as supporters and this amazing community.

As we move into the remaining part of 2020, we adjust to what is to come on a daily basis. Our teams are anxiously looking forward to the return of participation and are inspired each day they get to do what they love. We continually test our student-athletes, coaches and support staff on a regular basis. We thankfully haven't had to tackle some of the things other collegiate athletic programs have due to the great work of the university planning teams across all of campus. We cannot thank our partners in all of the many areas enough for their support and collaborative efforts.

These last eight months have been a joyful experience amongst the Redwood trees and I look forward to what is to come. We will be making adjustments as we move into a new year. Things may not be the same as in previous years but that's okay. Like the mighty Redwood tree, we stand tall and strong.

Keep any eye out of some holiday promotions that support HSU Athletics and continue to be safe.

---- #WeRUnitedJacks

Jane Teixeira

Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreational Sports

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Thank you, members, for your support during the pandemic.

Mary Lou Lowry, President





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<http://humboldt-ca.aauw.net>

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Shelley Mitchell

Submissions welcome: deadline is the 20th of each month

Mission. To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
Vision. Equity for all.
Values. Nonpartisan. Fact-based.

AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.

Editor's Note: *The Branch* is a primarily emailed publication. An email publication looks different than a printed newsletter. It is meant to be viewed on a screen (computer, phone, tablet) and while it is printable, The best way to print it is to save it as a pdf file and then print that. Please let me know if you have problems viewing or printing it and I will try to work with Constant Contact to resolve them.
Shelley

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