

Stacia Cragholm – Teacher Supreme!

Our 2022 Distinguished Woman, Stacia Cragholm, was born in San Francisco. Her father, Richard Horn, left college when his father died having to take care of his mother and siblings. Her mom was a 1933 UC Berkeley graduate. Her parents met on a tennis date and married in 1940. Her maternal grandfather was a tailor from the Czech Republic, he spoiled her by making all of her clothes. Stacia played alto sax in fifth through eighth grade and played tennis in the San Francisco Wightman Cup League at Golden Gate Park. Her family built several boats in their basement. If she wasn't sailing, she was playing tennis.

Stacia attended UC Berkeley, trying out several majors, including math and biology and then settling on history. She played on the tennis team for two years. Sadly, her father died just before graduation in 1968. She completed a minor in elementary school P E, while attending San Francisco State's credential program. She took a paid internship at Mill Valley Middle School and started teaching.

She married Ells Cragholm in 1970 and moved to Missoula, Montana, his home state. Ells went to graduate school and Stacia taught 5th grade, seventh and eighth grade girls PE, and after school sports. In 1972 they moved to Oakland.

In 1973 Stacia began teaching in Lafayette, subsequently working at Vallecito, Montecito, Happy Valley, and Burton Schools. Their daughter, Christina, was born in 1975. In 1977 they bought their home in Lafayette. Julie was born in 1979 and Stacia left full-time teaching to be with her family.

After spending time with her two daughters, she was hired by the West Contra Costa Unified School District where she worked in Richmond schools. In 1994 she began teaching in Hercules where she enjoyed immensely the last 16 years of her 30-year career.

She retired from teaching in 2009 and joined AAUW in 2011. She assumed responsibility for the Tech Trek interviews at Stanley from 2013 to 2015. It was during this time that the idea for a one-day STEM conference for middle school girls developed. She met Dr. Kristen Beck and Roy Wensley, Dean of Saint Mary's School of Science who supported what has become OML's STEM conference. In total over 800 girls have attended the conferences in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, virtually in 2021, and in-person again in 2022– what a great success! In addition, high school girls who participated in Sister-to-Sister and Tech Trek have honed their leadership as ambassadors to the conference. Stacia's idea has become a powerful reality - a life-altering experience for the girls and for Stacia a legacy to be proud of! We are privileged to celebrate Stacia Cragholm's commitment to young women and the mission of AAUW as our Distinguished Woman of 2022!