



The Grapevine
Healdsburg Branch
Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, research
June, 2017 <http://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net> Vol. 32 No.10

Getting Ready for Healdsburg AAUW 2017-2018....

Thank you for renewing your AAUW membership!

And if you have yet to renew, here is how:

- ❖ Look for an email from: EONSupport@aauw.org , click on the invoice, and follow the directions

OR

- ❖ Send a check made out to **AAUW:**

Healdsburg **AAUW** Membership

P.O. Box 1064

Healdsburg, CA 95448

Thank you for taking care of this before the **June 30** deadline!

—Deana Fusco

AND.....

May 20, 2017's Installation of Healdsburg AAUW 2017-18 Board of Officers



More about installation on page 8

— Photo contributed by **Scarlet Wood**



OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: It's Been a Great Run...

In this last column as your president, I cannot tout our branch's achievements in less than 400 words. At the outset, we must thank all the officers, boards, leadership teams, and members who have come before us over the last 42 years. They created the base upon which their successors could keep making improvements. And indeed, we have gotten bigger and better each year.

We now have over 200 members. We are the eighth largest of 141 AAUW branches in California. Quite an achievement for a branch covering Windsor to Cloverdale.

Our fundraising has enabled **Healdsburg AAUW** to become a major player in supporting education in the community. The 27th annual **Healdsburg Homes Tour** grossed over \$57,000 and sold 950 tickets. Since the first session of the **Forum** in January 2015, almost 2000 students have attended the six-week life-long learning sessions and it has netted almost \$80,000 in profits. Contributions from private donors have continued to support sending the maximum number of nine girls allotted to our branch to attend **Tech Trek Camp** at Stanford. Since the formation of **Healdsburg AAUW Fund**, the branch's 501(c)(3) corporation, tax deductible contributions have continued to increase both from our annual appeal and this year from the individual supporters of the Homes Tour. This year's donations were well over \$20,000. We've also had smaller events which each raised a few thousand dollars.

Budgets are set at the Board's annual retreat in summer at the beginning of our fiscal year. We allocate the money we have earned in the previous fiscal year since most of the money comes in at the end of the year from the Homes Tour. This year we are giving eleven \$2000 scholarships to girls graduating from local public schools and going on to four-year colleges (Healdsburg High 4, Cloverdale 4, Windsor 2, and Geyserville 1). We are also giving six \$4000 scholarships to re-entry women at Santa Rosa Junior College going on to four year colleges. In addition to these scholarships, we are pleased to award two \$5000 scholarships from the Al Garren Fund of the San Francisco Foundation. These will be awarded to a Healdsburg High School girl and a Santa Rosa Junior College woman. The Al Garren Fund was established to honor Dr. Alper A. Garren, a brilliant, compassionate, and widely-loved Northern California particle physicist who has given generously of his time and resources to provide educational opportunities to promising young people. We are honored to have again been selected to award these scholarships.

Community service continues to be a major part of our mission consuming many volunteer hours. This year we launched our first annual **Speech Trek** contest. Our **Reading Rocks** and holiday book giving program have expanded to both Healdsburg elementary schools as well as Westside School. The **Future Prep** program has successfully expanded from HHS to Cloverdale High School. The **GEMS** program has taken girls on fantastic field trips to see STEM educations at work.

Finally, we have fun, continue to educate ourselves, make new friends through working together on projects, the public policy committee, cultural outings, 4 book groups, 3 Great Decisions discussion groups, hiking, bridge groups, happy hours, luncheons, wine & dine dinners, and parties. This year we made our debut in the *Healdsburg's Annual Twilight Parade*.

I have worked with a fabulous board over the last two years and so many great women. I cannot thank them all because the list would look a lot like our branch directory. Needless to say, it has been an incredible honor to have served as your president.

—Ronnie Devitt



A “Tour de Force” 2017 Homes Tour

The 2017 Healdsburg Homes Tour was successful beyond our wildest dreams—particularly because we had 6 fabulous homes and a wonderful team of 18 hard-working committee members. We increased the gross revenue by 14% from last year’s record-breaking tour and raised \$57,225. We increased the net revenue by nearly 16% and will have over \$51,000 for Scholarships and Grants. We increased the number of tickets sold by 20% to 942: no wonder we ran out of programs! And we hope we increased the pleasure of our tour participants. We had a perfect day, and beautiful homes, so we were very fortunate.

We have to take the time to thank everyone who made this tour a success because so many community and AAUW members devoted so much time and energy to the tour. The tour requires beautiful homes and we are so grateful to **Hallie Beacham** and Paul Downey, Phil Engel and Mark Goff, Julia Graves, Sargam Griffin, Charles and Lois McCallum and Camille Seghesio for opening their doors to the hundreds of visitors. These home owners were first located and then constantly reassured by **Yvonne Schell** and **Debbie Potmesil**, who worked tirelessly to secure outstanding homes, no easy task.

Our Docents provide a vital service, by welcoming the public and assuring the homeowners that their homes are in good hands. Thanks to the 63 Docents and 12 Head Docents who were the face of AAUW during the tour. We needed extra docents and we marshalled the additional workforce with non-member volunteers and husbands. The amazing docents were organized by **Marian Van Alyea** who continued reassuring the homeowners up to the last moment. Marian also was a role model for the hospitality and communication that is at the heart of “docenting” by hosting 2 get-togethers for all the Head Docents and ensuring that everyone knew about their homes. Two homes required extra work: **Pat Swaney** once again organized the refreshments at the Bridal Path house---thank you cookie bakers! **Carlene Reininga and Janice Sexton** organized the parking and shuttle arrangements for the Pozzan Road home and used multiple cars including Women Driving Women, husbands, and members pitching in to drive our guests.

With so many more volunteers this year, we were fortunate to have **Laura Tredinnick** and **Linda Clark** organize the nearly 100 volunteers through SignUp and then provide speedy check-in on the day of the Tour. **Gail Wright** organized and trained the Ticket Sales crew who welcomed the visitors who bought 202 tickets on the day of sale—yes, another record. Gail and **Shally Schultz** also provided the legwork for the ticket sales at the bookstores and museum, responding to numerous calls—we need more tickets! Finally let’s not forget the men who provided background support from securing the tables, to setting up tents, to providing information at our new parking/shuttle stop.

We didn't get to a successful May 7 without hard work from many committee members for the months leading up to the tours. **Kate Van Ness** and **Carlene Reininga** headed up the effort to raise a record \$19,100 from six sponsors: Bella Winery, Big John's, Hudson Street Design, SoFi, Vanguard Properties and Diane Vernon and Bob Pennypacker of the Re/Max Collection. Please thank our sponsors and advertisers throughout the year; their names are listed on our homepage. Kate had the inspiration to create a new category of Supporters for this year's Homes Tour which greatly increased our revenue. Thanks also to the AAUW Board and **Andrea Wolcott** for initial assistance. Treasurer **Winky Merrill** helped us deposit all that money and handled all the online and PayPal ticket sales.

Janice Sexton and **Claire O'Neill** organized all the ads and prepared the layout for the Tour Program. Janice and Claire also organized other print materials: posters, postcards, etc which were distributed throughout the area by **Mary Neinaber** and her crew. **Carol Noack** was responsible for the graphics and design that went into the postcards and newspaper ads. **Phil Wright** provided beautiful interior photos and the exterior photos for the program. **Neita Comings** made sure that our publicity was distributed to the local papers and appropriate web sites; it was through Neita and Meg McConahey that the wonderful article in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat highlighting the Seghesio/Passalacqua home made our tour a "Tour de Force" to borrow Meg's headline. Thanks also to the Communications crew, **Linda Clark, Liz Loebel, Scarlett Wood, Joanne Johnson** and **Diane Burnley** for spreading the word all year to our AAUW community.

When the long day was over, we were able to celebrate in style thanks to the after-party, held at the museum, organized by **Carol Hazlett** and **Neita Comings**. It was such a pleasure to share stories and thank our home owners. Let us close by sharing a letter the Healdsburg AAUW received from a visitor who "drives the distance" from Willits for "another spectacular homes tour!" "So many lovely volunteer ladies that day, each one greeted us with a warm 'Welcome!' and a charming smile...Accolades to EVERYONE! Thank you so much for bringing us another incredible Healdsburg Homes Tour."

Thank you everyone for making this year's Homes Tour the best ever: a real "Tour de Force."

—**Kim Alexander and Carlene Reininga**, 2017 Homes Tour Co-Chairs

Cookies, Cookies, and More Cookies

Thank you, thank you to all the generous bakers who once again provided delicious treats for our wonderful **Homes Tour**. The selection of cookies this year was outstanding. **Guests** and **AAUW** members commented on how beautiful the platters looked....and how good the cookies tasted! Your time, baking talent, and tasty recipes are what make the refreshments' house a festive and delightful place to relax on the **Homes Tour** day. While we know it was not the cookies alone that make this a record-breaking year for attendance, we can all feel very proud of being part of such a successful effort!

With appreciation, **Pat Swaney**



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & ENRICHING THOUGHT

SPRING 2017 AAUW FORUM



The Forum ‘school term’ has ended on a high note with Professor Chris O’Sullivan’s course, “Contested Eden: A History of Sonoma County.” From the 16th century, when native peoples had their first interactions with Europeans to the environmental battles of the late 20th century through today, the course was taught with impressive scholarship, verve, and humor. With our newfound knowledge and appreciation of local history, many of us are inspired to ‘do our homework’ this summer by visiting many of the historic sites mentioned in this course. We also are looking forward to the equally stimulating courses being offered through the Forum next year. See you at the Raven in the Fall!

—Angèle Rice, Forum Committee Member

AAUW FORUM - NEXT SEASON



Now that the Forum for this year is in the rear view mirror, the committee is hard at work getting ready for the next season. We have a terrific lineup for next year. We hope you will plan your vacations around these dates and attend as many classes as possible.

We have a new committee for this coming year led by **Liz Loebel**. Joining me is **Phil Wright, Angèle Rice, Georgia Helthall, Bob Santos, Celeste Plaister, Jean Norelli, and Sharyn Sarquis**.

The classes will remain at the Raven, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11:30am. Check our website <http://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net> for more information.

Tickets will go on sale September 1st for the Fall classes.

We hope to see you there.

—Liz Loebel, Chair

COMMUNITY SERVICE

FUTURE PREP ENDS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR

The mission of *Future Prep*, an **AAUW** volunteer effort at Healdsburg High School, is to assist students in preparing for life following high school graduation. During the 2016-17 school year we sponsored four career panels—all of which won high praise from students and panelists alike—and **AAUW** members participated in a variety of school-based activities focusing on student development of work-related life skills.

The organizing themes for this year's Career Panels were: Hospitality; Automotive and Construction; Arts, Media, Film and Music; and the Liberal Arts. Six panelists were recruited for each one, and they brought experience and expertise in areas ranging from that of pastry chef at the Dry Creek Kitchen to leading the area's sheet metal workers' union. Perhaps the highlight of other *Future Prep* activities was an evening event during which we had the opportunity to hear members of the junior class discuss their work internship experiences—including a number of fascinating and highly impressive presentations. The school's staff and faculty are to be commended for providing students with these valuable opportunities that promote their growth to successful adulthood.

AAUW was assisted in some of these *Future Prep* efforts by members of local Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. The participation of these service groups is valued; however, **AAUW** continues to provide the leadership for developing the career panels and other *Future Prep* activities. Plans for the 2017-18 school year will be evolving over the course of the summer and the beginning of the school year. As the **AAUW** point person for *Future Prep*, I would like to form a committee with several additional **AAUW** members to participate in this highly rewarding activity. The key tasks for committee members will be defining the parameters for the career panel and then identifying and recruiting appropriate panel members. Each committee member will be responsible for only one panel. You will be rewarded by getting to meet interesting people and seeing the panel in action. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me at kk.lacy@gmail.com.

—Katherine Lacy

TECH TREK 2017

Our **Tech Trek** camp, Stanford Marie Curie, will be held this summer July 9-15. For the second year in a row our branch is sending 9 campers from Healdsburg, Windsor, Geyserville and Cloverdale. As in the past, the selection process was tough, but **Cynthia Adam**, who leads that committee, believes we have the best girls for camp this year. The committee interviewed 21 qualified girls. It was a challenge to select only 9 campers, plus 2 alternates.

I will be attending as a Dorm Mom, which I'm quite excited about. This will be my 4th time serving as a Dorm Mom, and I'm looking forward to it, since the camp has added several new courses, including an exercise called Mad City Money, which several Healdsburg branch members will be helping with. For those of you who don't know what a Dorm Mom does, we are basically responsible for 10-12 girls any time they aren't in class (so when they're sleeping, eating or going to or from class). We live in a dorm at Stanford with the girls, which includes sharing the communal bathroom and typically having another Dorm Mom as a roommate. Just like college!

As in the past, the camp concludes with an evening activity called Build-It Night. The girls spend the week designing a structure made exclusively of newspapers rolled around straws and tape. This is after a structural engineering unit, which focuses on construction principles and project management. Every Dorm Mom needs to bring enough newspapers to camp to build the components of the structure, which are literally bags and bags of newspapers. If you'd like to donate newspapers to the cause, please let me know (suecampbell21@aol.com), and I will pick them up at your house some time before camp.

There's also a branch visitation day every year, so if you'd like to see our Tech Trek girls in action, please consider coming down. I believe the date is July 13th. I'll let you know if that changes. There may also be a few short-term volunteer opportunities at camp, so if you're interested in that, please let me know.

—Sue Campbell

Cloverdale High School Career Extravaganza

On April 5th, Cloverdale High School (CHS) held its first **Career Day Extravaganza** with CHS *Work Based Learning Coordinator*, Christi Calson, leading the effort. After a hiatus of a few years, the school returned to having a Career Day, but instead of having just booths with employers as they had in the past, there were four different activities for students. These included the traditional Career Day booths with employers; presentations on resume writing, dressing for success, interviewing and other skills needed to make a first great impression; an online career evaluation, and a session run by AAUW based on the Future Prep format. All CHS students rotated through the activities throughout the morning in four sessions.

Each Cloverdale High School class includes about 100 students, so four Future Prep sessions were held for each of four sessions. Each class was further divided into four classrooms with about 25 students paired with from three to five panelists who described their jobs to students and responded to questions. Each of the sessions was facilitated by **AAUW** members including **Patty McHugh**, **Scarlett Wood**, and **Elsie Richardson**.



The biggest challenge was coming up with the number of professional panelists required for four simultaneous panels in each of the sessions, a total of 16 panels. Some panel volunteers spent the entire morning at the High School speaking to all of the classes, others volunteered for two sessions. The topics in each of the sessions were:

- Hospitality and Tourism
- Health Services
- Technology, Science and Media
- Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Animal Services



AAUW members helped out not only by facilitating the sessions, but also by being panelists. **Linda Clark** and **Barbara Zarakov** were part of the Health Services panel. EJ Neil, husband of **Judy Edmonds**, volunteered for the Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Animal Services panel. Support from both Judy and Christi helped fill out the ranks of volunteers needed for all of the panels.

The diverse group of panelists included: doctors, nurses, radiologists, epidemiologists, lab specialists, park rangers, winery employees and grape growers, videographers, computer animators, engineers, and a computer automotive specialist. Safari West supported the effort by sending three volunteers for two of the panels.



Students were enthusiastic and asked good questions. All of the panelists were impressed by the students and enjoyed talking to them in the small group settings. Overall, the day was a great success and we hope will start a tradition at CHS. The school's appointment of a *Work Based Learning Coordinator* is a right step in the direction of helping students think about and prepare for their futures. **AAUW** was pleased to be part of the program.

—Cecile Peters

OUR INSTALLATION LUNCHEON



The first annual combined Garden Party and Installation Luncheon was a great success!

Held in the beautiful setting of Alexander Valley at Geoff and **Cecile Peters's** gorgeous home on Saturday May 20, 2017, where more than 50 **Healdsburg AAUW** members enjoyed a bountiful salad and dessert buffet while sipping mimosas.

Ronnie Devitt conducted the General Meeting, and voting on changes to the bylaws took place. **Ronnie**, as outgoing President, thanked her board for their support and praised them for all that they had accomplished. Departing board members were recognized and gifted a red rose.



Nancy Haiston, incoming President introduced her new board and welcomed the opportunity to serve as our chapter's new leader, and also gifted roses to her new team.

Another successful **AAUW** social function! Special thanks to **Janice Sexton** and her team for facilitating, and to Geoff and **Cecile Peters** for opening their home to us.

—Barbara Reid



— Photos submitted by **Scarlet Wood**

SPRING CULTURAL EXCURSION

A Cultural Tour of Cornerstone Sonoma, with Lunch

Sixteen of us lucked into the finest weather in weeks on April 14th in Sonoma, for our final cultural tour of the year. Our *Sunset Magazine* guide had promised us an hour tour through the magazine's, and other gardens. The sixty minutes turned into ninety as our flora-loving members had many questions regarding the unusual sites and the beautiful flowers, shrubs, trees, and sculptures.

After the walk through, we enjoyed lunch and conversation outdoors at Park 121, the exceptional restaurant on the premises. A surprise for many of us were the other high-end commercial establishments on-site, which featured, among others, a limoncello sampling, wine tasting, and hip clothing stores and gift shops, inviting us to drop dollars after what had been an otherwise modestly priced outing.

We will return in the fall with our diverting cultural excursions. Please watch for announcements.

—Ann Mahoney and Jean Norelli

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Spring Wine-N-Dine



Another successful Wine-N-Dine was held on Friday night, April 21. 47 attendees were hosted by six gracious hosts. Thanks to the hosts who made this possible. **Sue & Jim Finan, Charlene and Phil Luks, Liz and Al Loebel, Neita and Bill Comings, Ana Darden and Tricia Partridge** held outstanding dinner parties. All the feedback we received was glowing. Good food,



great company and lots of laughs. Debbie and I tried our best to place members with other members they did not know very well. Several commented how nice it was to get to know other members better.

This is the last of the **Wine-N-Dines** for this year. **Debbie Potmesil** has been my co-chair this year. She will be heading up the future **Wine-N-Dines** with **Laura Kramer** as her co-chair. Look for next year's schedule in the September *Grapevine*.

Thanks to all those who attended and the six hosts.

—Liz Loebel and Debbie Potmesil



HEALDSBURG AAUW and the HEALDSBURG'S ANNUAL TWILIGHT PARADE

Healdsburg AAUW joined other Healdsburg organizations on the evening of Thursday, May 25th, in the annual *Healdsburg's Annual Twilight Parade*.



Planning for the event began in March under the creative guidance of **Winky Merrill**. With the focus of university education and scholarships chosen and an organizational plan in place, **Winky** and her team purchased, designed and then constructed all that was needed for our **AAUW** truck-float. The flat-bed truck was donated and driven by **Wendy Bartalon**. The members of **Winky's** team included **Claire O'Neill, Karla Rosen, Mickey Sarquis, and Diane Burnley**. These team members volunteered many hours of their time during this preparation of signs, mortarboards, and gathering of graduation gowns.



AAUW scholarship recipients were the star participants joining us for the parade on Thursday, May 25th. Fifteen girls from **GEMS, Tech Trek**, and our **2017 University Scholars** participated. Also participating were Winky's team, and **AAUW** members **Nancy Haiston, Michèle St. Clair, Debbie Potmesil, Barbara Reid, Judy Edmonds, Linda Clark, and Terry Leach**. During the parade **Claire O'Neill** led everyone in a kazoo performance of the graduation march, *Pomp n Circumstance*.

An 'after party' was hosted by **AAUW** member **Andi Michelsen**.



The entire experience was positive and enjoyed by all.

MEMBERSHIP

Contact Information

New Members

Catherine Monk ckmonk54@gmail.com
Constance Cservenyak C.cservenyak@yahoo.com

Returning Member

Kathleen Beiser kabeiser@live.com

New Member Profile

Barbara Oddone



Ask folks from Boston, New Orleans, Iowa, or, for that matter, anywhere else, how they envision the Sonoma County wine country way of life, and they'll most likely describe **Barbara Oddone's** lifestyle.

Back in 1976, **Barbara** joined Littler Mendelson as a labor lawyer. She and her husband, Pier, bought property on Dry Creek Road in 1988 and built their home two years later. They planted grapes in 1998. "2005-2013 was an especially busy time. While living in the Chicago area, I ran the vineyard by email! We were fortunate to have an excellent vineyard manager, Javier Rivas."

Now enjoying retirement here, Barbara has more time to spend in her sustainable vineyard and replanting her garden with California natives. She enjoys both of her poodles, a miniature and a standard ("so intelligent plus hypoallergenic"), and listening to audio books while driving to see her young granddaughters: two in Davis and twins in Seattle. She's also looking for a healthy Peruvian Paso, to ride on the many trails around Lake Sonoma, Bodega Bay, and Armstrong Woods. (For those of us who don't necessarily identify with Annie Oakley, this breed of horse does not trot. It has a smooth, gentle gait. I can giddy up to that!)

Barbara loved attending Chris O'Sullivan's *History of Sonoma County* lectures. "I was very impressed with his command of the material, as well as his entertaining style. I'm looking forward to his World War II series."

So, vineyards, wine, horses, gardening, dogs, attending our wonderful events, and celebrating life with family and friends, that's Barbara! Maybe she'll soon be featured on the cover of Sonoma County's *Lifestyle Magazine*!

—Sue Finan

OUR SYMPATHY and condolences to **Ronnie Devitt** on the recent death of her mother.

If you are interested in being a 'Buddy' for a new member please contact **Pat Bertapelle**, pat@vbbn.comNew members are the life blood of our organization, and the experience of a new friend is invaluable! —**Pat Bertapelle**

If you are aware of any member who is ill, has had an operation, an accident, or has passed away, please notify **Sheila Kneass** that a card can be sent to the person or family from **AAUW**. skneass@aat.net or (707)433-5646.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Occasionally the email and/or website links do not work for some of our **AAUW** members. If this occurs

- For emails, go to your own email site and type in the email address
- For websites, go to Google and type in the website address

We apologize for this inconvenience; however, we have been unsuccessful in correcting this occasional glitch.

The **Grapevine** is published online each month, except in July and August. Please submit articles, announcements, and photographs by the 15th of the month to the **Grapevine** editor, **Diane Burnley**, dburnley@aol.com