



The Grapevine

Healdsburg Branch

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, research

May, 2017 <http://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net> Vol. 32 No. 9

Healdsburg Homes Tour Sunday May 7, 2017 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.



The 27th Annual Healdsburg Homes Tour is almost here! Our Homes Tour Committee and many other AAUW members have been working for nine months to create an event that is as fun and interesting as the other memorable tours. We know you'll love the six homes on this year's tour and look forward to sharing them with you, your family, and friends. The houses will be unveiled, one at a time, on Facebook this week so check them out.

We always need help. Contact **Pat Swaney** if you are a baker and can provide cookies for our refreshment stop. Are appetizers more your style? Then please let **Carol Hazlett** or **Neita Comings** know you'll be bringing something to our after-party at the Museum. Have you signed up to volunteer yet? Please check out SignUp.com to see if there is an open slot you might fill. With 600-700 visitors expected we need many hostesses and hosts. Speaking of hosts, this year we will be providing parking and shuttle service to one of our homes and we'd like to recruit help with this new assignment. If you can enlist a partner or son, we could use their help. He'll get to wear a "boater." Please contact Kim or Carlene to let us know if you have someone in mind.

It's not too late to help get the message out to the larger community. There are so many weekend visitors to the area who should know about the tour. If you have time this week, contact **Mary Neinaber** and she will provide you with posters and postcards to distribute.

Many of us were Girl Scouts in years gone by and fondly remember the cookie sales and how we bought our own product as well as sold it. If you can't attend the tour, that doesn't mean you can't buy tickets—either tour tickets or raffle tickets. If you can't volunteer this year, then please consider buying tickets as gifts for neighbors or friends. Click on <http://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net> for more information.

See you **Sunday, May 7**. You may check-in beginning at 9:30 at the Healdsburg Museum at the corner of **Fitch and Matheson** to pick up your wrist band and Program. Plan to return at 4:30 for our after-party. And, thank you for all your support!

—Kim Alexander and Carlene Reininga, co-chairs



OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Event

As you learned in last month's *Grapevine* our newly reformulated **Annual Meeting, Election, and Garden Party** will be held May 20th. The first thing you can help the board do is come up with a less wordy name for this *Event*. Send your suggestions to Nancy Haiston who will be the newly installed president unless *The Event* becomes a raucous election upset. This could happen with a nomination from the floor and a majority vote for that newly nominated candidate. I cannot believe that this will happen but...

We are in the process of amending our branch's bylaws. Most of the amendments are mandated by **AAUW National** and therefore no vote is required. Some amendments are specific to our branch and we will be asking you to approve these amendments in addition to electing officers. The proposed amendments are:

- Waiver of branch dues for college and university representatives and 50-year members;
- Change the date of the branch annual meeting from "May" to "the months of May and June";
- Change the number of required member meetings from 8 to "at least one;"
- Change the title of the "Speakers Series" board position to "Programs."

The waiver of dues is proposed in view of both **AAUW National** and **State's** waiver of dues for these categories. The other changes create greater flexibility for our branch board. There are a few other clean up amendments which do not require a vote. The amended bylaws will be posted on the website later this summer.

We hope to see you all at *The Event* on May 20th for the **very** brief annual meeting, election of branch officers and approval of bylaw changes, introduction of the new board, and partying.

Of course, we hope to see most of you at the **Homes Tour** and **After Party at the Museum** on May 7th.

Don't forget to vote by email or written ballot in **AAUW National's** election. Voting is now open until June 15th. You should have received an email from National and you will receive an email blast from us. As you know, I strongly favor amending the National bylaws to delete the degree requirement for membership.

— **Ronnie Devitt**

HEALDSBURG AAUW INTRODUCES the 2017-18 Board of Director candidates

#President
Past President
#Vice President
#Secretary
#Treasurer
+Communications
+Community Services
+Grants & Scholarships
+Membership
+Public Policy Lead
+Social Activities
+Fundraising

Nancy Haiston
Ronnie Devitt
Linda Clark
Sandy Beddow
Julie Hanamura
Linda Clark*
Dee McGuffey
Andi Michelsen*
Patty McHugh
Michele St. Clair*
Barbara Reid*
Terry Leach
*Incumbents
#Elected Position
+appointed Position

—Nancy Haiston, Vice President

HEALDSBURG AAUW ANNUAL MEETING AND GARDEN PARTY Saturday, May 20, 2017 11 AM – 2 PM 26070 Highland Ranch Road, Cloverdale

It's Spring and time for our annual meeting and election of officers for the coming year. This year we are combining the annual meeting/election and installation of the new slate of officers, with a **Spring Garden Party**, at **Cecile** and Geoff **Peters's** gorgeous new home in Cloverdale.

The meeting begins at 11 AM, immediately followed at noon by a celebratory potluck luncheon.

Please bring a dish to share:

A to R please bring a salad

S to Z please bring a dessert.

Mimosas and water will be provided.

And think of something to remind you to wear your name tag!

Look for directions and carpool information in the email message coming in early May.

Please RSVP to **Janice Sexton**, janicesexton46@gmail.com or 707-837-8001 by May 12th.

— Janice Sexton

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW CA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In March 2017, the California Public Policy Committee met in Sacramento with our lobbyist **Shannon Smith-Crowley** and **AAUW California President Donna Mertens**. We discussed the work of the Public Policy Committee and pending state legislation addressing issues that relate to the **AAUW mission** and **AAUW California's** public policy priorities.

In preparation for that meeting, Committee members researched individual bills. They presented their reports at the meeting. Discussion followed each bill presented. Committee members decided whether to include a given bill on our priority list and what positions to take on the bill: Support, Oppose, or Watch. Some bills were discarded as not being as vital to the mission or to our public policy priorities, thereby allowing **Shannon** and the organization to focus our advocacy efforts on the issues of greatest importance to **AAUW**.

The following areas are those that our priority bills address (in no special order):

- education, including Title IX
- employment and salary
- women's health
- trafficking
- family – child care
- discrimination
- religious disclosure (freedom from)

As the bills move through their respective legislative houses, we will be sending out specific bill information and, in some cases, **Action Alerts** requesting your help in our advocacy efforts. We will also update the public policy section of the website and provide a link to a list of our priority bills with their status.

—**Sue Miller**, suellen-aauw@wavecable.org
and **Nancy Mahr**, nlmahr@verizon.net,
AAUW-CA Public Policy Co-Chairs

—Submitted by, **Michele St. Clair**

PUBLIC POLICY

CONTINUED....

ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Don't forget to vote this month!

The **National AAUW election starts on April 17th and ends on June 15th**. There are several issues on the ballot. Details about the election can be found on the **AAUW National website**. One issue that may be important to you is the potential change in membership requirements. This bylaws amendment has been on the ballot every other year for several years and would remove the requirement for a college degree to become a member. Many of the members, including those in my branch, are worried that this would make us like every other women's organization. We wouldn't stand out any more. But, looking at it from another angle, to some people it is a barrier. Maybe it is time to change. But be sure to vote this year.

Voter PINs for the national election will be e-mailed to members and mailed with the **Spring AAUW Outlook**; candidate slate, bylaws proposals, Public Policy Program proposals, and resolutions published in the **Spring AAUW Outlook**.

At almost the same time as the national election, we will be holding the state election. **AAUW California** election voting **begins April 22nd and ends May 12th**. We currently have an uncontested slate of officers which means that they will all take office on July 1st. The [Public Policy priorities](#) will be the only item on the ballot. Please read them before the election to familiarize yourself with the proposed focus of our advocacy for the next two years. Members will receive an email -- or postcard if there is no email on file --with instructions on how to vote.

We all know that the right to vote is an honor. This was all the more evident in the last national election in November. Voting within **AAUW** is just as important. We make changes for women and girls every day. Don't forget to vote!

—*Donna Mertens, President, AAUW CA, statepresident@aauw-ca.org*

—Submitted by **Michele St. Clair**

Healdsburg AAUW Public Policy Team

The Public Policy Team is recruiting Team Leaders to direct various activities. If you'd like to support AAUW's mission to "advance equity for women and girls through advocacy . . . ", call Public Policy Director Michele St.Clair at 433-8090.

—**Michele St. Clair**

AAUW NATIONAL BYLAWS AMENDMENT

This is something we should all consider about AAUW membership.....

The only requirement for membership in **AAUW** is that the applicant be “anyone holding an associate’s (or equivalent, e.g. RN), bachelor’s or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.”

In the March Grapevine our chapter President, Ronnie Devitt, brought this issue to our attention. “I am opposed to the degree requirement because it is organized discrimination without a rational basis. The mission of **AAUW** is advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. A degree is not required to support this mission.”

Many Healdsburg AAUW members also have positions that they would like considered as you prepare to vote. The following are those who asked to be included in your consideration.

*I wholeheartedly agree with Ronnie’s sentiment about the current **AAUW policy** excluding individuals who do not hold a degree. Our mission is not advanced by excluding those in our community who share our goals but who do not have the appropriate “pieces of paper” to join us. At this time, when our country is so divided, I think it’s important to welcome everyone who wants to be a part of **AAUW**.*

—Janet Hoehn

Should AAUW maintain the college requirement?

AAUW’s passion for higher education for women is in our title. By eliminating the requirement for a college education, we diminish the role of an extraordinary organization that advocates and encourages all women to achieve more by educating themselves. A degree requirement is an integral part of our organizational character. It is not discriminatory to have this particular requirement for membership; in fact, it serves to inspire women and men to pursue a higher education degree. We are role models for the young women and men we support.

If members don't have university degrees, we are not going to be university women. Shall the organization be known as "American Association of Women and Men?

If you want to advocate for education, there are many organizations which fulfill that need. We who were smart enough, committed enough, lucky enough, rich enough, or whatever "enough" you want to state, felt that this was an important milestone. It does not convey an exalted status nor does it convey a lower status on a woman without a degree. Rather, it simply states a fact. It is a requirement to join. Virtually all professional organizations have membership requirements. You need a medical degree to join the AMA, a teaching job or degree to join the NEA, and so forth. It denigrates no one. It is simply a requirement.

Please carefully consider the consequences of turning AAUW into just another organization. Join me in voting against the Article IV bylaw change. The online polls are open from April 17-June 15 at www.aauw.org.

Thank you.

—Liz Loebel

AAUW NATIONAL BYLAWS AMENDMENT (continued)

Counterpoint to President's February Message

A change in the **AAUW by-law** that includes an education requirement for membership is on the 2017 ballot. I support keeping the by-law as written.

I am also a member of Santa Rosa Newcomer's. It is a wonderful organization that has a 100% social mission with no membership requirements. I have made many friends and enjoyed activities with that group. PEO is another organization whose mission is to support education and women's concerns. It does not have an education component. Soroptomists provides another venue for women to work on community services.

AAUW is another option for women looking for an organization to meet their needs. It is important to have several quality opportunities to compare. The level of experiences, wisdom, ideas and participation I have witnessed in **AAUW** is amazing. There are intangibles acquired with the discipline of higher education that all **AAUW** members possess. I have not encountered a member who does not awe me with their capacity to bring strength to any project. It is the reason that so many participate in projects that truly help the girls and women in our communities, while continuing to stimulate their minds.

I believe that all of us need a variety of opportunities to select from to fulfill our lives. It is important that there continues to be a choice that builds on our educational backgrounds.

Please consider both viewpoints and then **VOTE** at www.aauw.org . Polls are open through June.

Respectfully, **Linda Clark**

COMMUNITY SERVICE **EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS**

25th Annual Sonoma County Hands-On STEM Workshop Day

Launch rockets! Build a dome! Count beetles! Program a robot! Learn about medicine, chemistry, ecology, light and more!

Expanding Your Horizons Sonoma County is a one-day conference encouraging 7th and 8th grade students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. On Saturday, April 1, 2017 over 100 students from Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Marin counties participated in three sessions of hands-on workshops led by women experts in STEM fields and occupations at the Santa Rosa Junior College Campus.

Thank you to our local AAUW branch for supporting this exciting event. Regional co-sponsors include Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa Junior College, Keysight Technologies, and Medtronic.

Pat Bertapelle, Violet Nelson, Georgia Helthall and **Victoria Toboni** generously donated their time to volunteer at the registration and check-in tables to get the day off to a smooth start! We know the students all had an amazing experience. Thank you, ladies!
—**Victoria Toboni**

HEALDSBURG AAUW SOCIAL ACTIVITIES....

ATTENTION ALL HIKERS!

It took a committee of four to try to meet the standards set by **Yvonne Schell** to schedule and lead the Friday Hike.

There is a change to the process.

All hikes will start at 9 am at the Park and Ride at 101 and Healdsburg Ave. Carpools will form at that time. A schedule for the month will be emailed to the hikers on the email list the first of every month.

A schedule of the hikes is available on our website. It is under the Activities Tab and Interests groups. This includes a summary of the hike including distance, difficulty and estimated return time. Hikes are weather dependent and would be canceled if it's raining.

<http://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net/interest-groups/hiking/>

Reminders will not be sent. All members and their spouses are welcome. Mark Fridays at 9 am on your calendars.

— **Linda Clark, Liz Loebel, Debbie Potmesil, and Barb Recchia**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A Word about 2017-18 Dues...

Many thanks to the 60 members who, as of the Grapevine deadline, have renewed their membership for 2017-18, either online or by check. If you have not yet had a chance to pay your \$94 in annual dues, another invoice will be coming soon to your inbox as a reminder. It comes from the national office, so look for mail from: EONSupport@aauw.org Renewing membership online is very easy. 80% of those who have renewed membership so far have simply clicked on the invoice and keyed in their credit card information. Try it!

- ❖ \$49 goes to our national organization.
- ❖ The national dues pay for work at the national level in public policy, legal defense, administrative expenses, and the national publication, **AAUW Outlook**.
- ❖ \$20 goes to our state organization. The state dues fund **Tech Trek, AAUW Funds**, branch support, communications, leadership development, public policy, and include the **California Perspective** newsletter.
- ❖ \$25 goes to our Healdsburg branch. The branch dues go for our administrative expenses, social activities, and our branch newsletter, **The Grapevine**.

Thanks for taking care of this **in the month of May!**

—**Deana Fusco, Membership**

AAUW Member Audrey Darbey.....

Audrey Darbey's article about her visit to India, *Memories From Arunachal Pradesh* (or *The Land of Dawn Lit Mountains*) will be published in the June issue of *International Travel News*. If you would like more information please contact Audrey at (707) 431-1619.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (continued)

Membership Directory changes:

- **Amanda Haas** cell phone: (415) 606-6650
- **Nancy Renkiewicz** phone: (707) 974-8403
- **Marian Van Aleya** cell phone: (707) 696-5381
- **Hallie Beacham** address: 383 Bridle Path, Healdsburg 95448

New Member Contact Information:

- **Barbara Oddone** Barbara@oddonevineyard.com



Our New Member ...Naomi Ramsden

Attorney **Naomi Ramsden**, who specializes in issues relating to small businesses, had this particular “issue” to deal with: her client wanted to terminate an employee who was performing miserably. Seems like a ‘cut and dry’ situation. But, there was a problem: the employee might sue for discrimination. The reality of any such suit is that there is an unspoken presumption in her favor. Why? Well....

What have the covers of *National Geographic*, *Time Magazine*, and *Vanity Fair* recently had in common?

Hint: Laverne Cox, Chaz Bono, Caitlyn Jenner.....

Why yes, they each featured “the transgender tipping point,” or “America’s next civil rights frontier.” And so....

Solution: “I told my client not to fire her. It would be an extremely expensive process consuming an immense amount of time and money, along with many headaches, bad publicity, not to mention all that negative energy. What my client did do was put the employee on probation and review her progress (or lack of) every three months. Finally, the employee got disgusted and quit. “

Naomi’s clients tend to be in creative businesses, such as interior designers and antique dealers. “They’re basically right-brained people who don’t like numbers, but they need to use my financial information for making intelligent business decisions. As their company gets bigger, I help them in managing risk that is associated with having more employees. The likelihood of having employee problems is 100%, and even though a claim may be groundless (as in the transgender example), it can be costly!”

Naomi and her husband moved here three years ago. They love their six acres on Norton Road. “We gravitated to this rural area--we can hear cows, crickets, and frogs, and there’s a donkey and a demented rooster who live nearby! So different from the Palo Alto area we’d lived in for 37 years!”

She has joined the Monday night book group, and heartily recommends *Swing Time*, *The Sympathizer*, *My Name is Lucy Barton*, and *Heroes of the Frontier*.

Her greatest joy, however, is focused on her darling granddaughter Ivy. “See her picture?” (And yes, she’s adorable; like a modern Shirley Temple.) “I’m so looking forward to getting her for two weeks!” So, too, I’ll bet, are the cows, crickets, and donkey!

— Sue Finan

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