



The Grapevine

Healdsburg Branch

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

February 2013 www.healdsburgaauw.com Vol.28 No.5

February Speaker Series

Tuesday, February 5, 2013



5:00 Social Gathering

5:30 AAUW Business

5:45 Speaker

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

Cecille Caterson, program manager

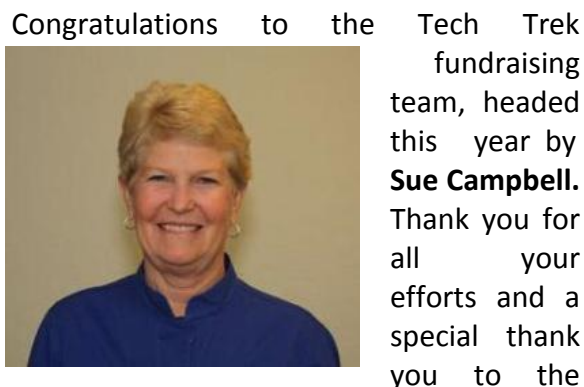
Cecille Caterson will discuss the exciting education programs offered by the California State Parks Foundation, as well as delineating the progress made by the organization in preserving and improving our parks system during this politically fragile time.

Since its founding in 1969, the California State Parks Foundation has raised over \$209 million for capital projects and educational programs in state parks, while building a vast network of park supporters. Its mission is to help enhance state parks with educational programs, capital projects, competitive grants, and fundraising. Its diverse agenda includes many programs for youth, including: the Packard Summer Enrichment Program, the PORTS statewide program, FAMCAMP, the Outdoor Youth Connection, and *Coast Alive!*

California's 280 state parks make up the most diverse natural, cultural, and recreational park system in the nation. The California State Parks Foundation is instrumental in improving the parks, celebrating them with various community and educational programs, fostering volunteer programs to preserve and celebrate the parks, and raising funds to save and enhance our rich natural spaces.

—Kim Burmester and Carol McKnight

President's Message



Congratulations to the Tech Trek fundraising team, headed this year by **Sue Campbell**. Thank you for all your efforts and a special thank you to the donors. See Sue's article for details. Thank you also to **Nancy Haiston** who has been our webmistress. Her dedication and attention to detail have made our web site very informative, user friendly, and a model for other branches. Nancy has passed the role on to **Karen Fanucchi**.

Our hiking group has grown and has been very active despite the weather. **Yvonne Schell** is the coordinator this year. Email her if you would like to join the group and be on the email list for hike details at yschell@comcast.net.

Travel is keeping me from attending our Speaker Series meetings in January and February; I am sorry to miss them. I hope you will make a point of attending on Tuesday, February 5. The social time is a great way to keep in touch, and our speakers have been excellent.

—**Charlene Luks**

Friday Lunch Group

February 22 at Taverna Sofia

Our first lunch event of this year for the Friday Lunch Group will be held at noon on February 22 at Taverna Sofia, a wonderful Greek restaurant located at 244 Healdsburg Avenue. Alas, our leader and originator of the group, **Helaine Scholze**, is moving to Portland and thus has had to resign her position as head of these luncheons. We are so sorry to see her go and will remember all of the wonderful lunches that she arranged and all the good times that we had. Thank you so much, Helaine!

So, for this February lunch which Helaine has arranged but is unable to attend I, **Cher Frechette**, will be temporarily filling in for her. If you want to attend this event please email your name to me (cherylfrechette@yahoo.com) as soon as possible, but **no later than February 15**, so that I can include you in the headcount for the restaurant. Please also



let me know if you have to cancel for some reason, so I can modify the count. Taverna Sofia has seven parking spots, two of which are designated handicapped, in the parking lot in front of the restaurant. Otherwise use street parking. Come for some fun and enjoy some fabulous Greek food!

—**Cher Frechette**

HEALDSBURG HOMES TOUR

Sunday, May 5, 2013

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



TRIVIA OF THE MONTH: at age 23 we are neither the oldest nor the only AAUW Homes Tour. AAUW Sonora has had one for 46 years, AAUW Redding for 42 years, and AAUW Amador for 41 years. The apparently oldest continuing tour is AAUW Hinsdale-Oakbrook, Illinois now in its 61st year. AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek had a holiday tour in December and AAUW South Lake Tahoe has its own historic home tour. But our goal is to make the Healdsburg Homes Tour the best!

By now you should be able to buy your tour and raffle tickets online at www.healdsburgaauw.com. As explained in last month's *Grapevine*, we really hope that you will buy tickets before March 1 to save the cost of mailing. For those who really don't want to buy online, you can pay for event tickets and purchase raffle tickets at the next Speakers Series meeting.

We all take pride in the number of scholarships and educational programs supported by our Homes Tour. However, we have put so much emphasis on the importance of every member buying or selling tour tickets and a minimum \$60 worth of raffle tickets that we may have lost sight of the bigger picture. Therefore, a brief review is in order. Last year we made approximately \$18,500 from ticket sales, \$10,000 from raffle tickets, \$7000 from advertisements, \$4000 from sponsorships, and \$800 from donations. Our total expenses were about \$4600. (Our annual dues do not support our educational programs since the majority of the dues go to AAUW national and state organizations.)

The extent to which our 150 members contribute their time to putting on the tour is almost unbelievable. We have 20 chairs and co-chairs of committees staffed by more volunteers, most of whom put in many hours in the months and weeks leading up to the tour. On the day of the tour we require over 75 volunteers to staff the houses with docents, sell tickets, put up signs, and serve refreshments, etc. Then there are the *Dozens for Dozens*, the dozens of bakers who supply dozens of wonderful home-made cookies.

Therefore, we need every one of our members to contribute to the homes tour to the extent he or she is able to contribute. Yes, buy tour and raffle tickets, but try to sell more to others. If each of us just buys one ticket and \$60 worth of raffle tickets that brings in \$7610. If you can't attend the tour and you hate buying raffle tickets and can afford to do so, your donation is most welcome. Plan to participate on the day of. Bake cookies. Contact your friends, relatives, and acquaintances from the Bay Area and beyond and encourage them to come to Healdsburg for the weekend or the day to go on the tour, visit the Museum, the Center for the Arts, the shops and galleries around the plaza, and enjoy our fine restaurants, hotels, and tasting rooms around town. If you can do nothing else, pray for good weather and a really profitable year.

Thank you.

—Ronnie Devitt and Janet Hoehn, Co-chairs



Fundraising Team Meets Goal

This year's Tech Trek Fundraising Team has reached its 2013 goal of raising \$6000, enough money to send **seven** girls to Camp Curie at Stanford this summer. Last year's efforts resulted in our raising enough to cover the costs of sending six girls. The branch also contributed \$1800 for field trips conducted at camp last year, specifically a visit to the Computer History Museum. This year we plan to do the same.

This year's Tech Trek fundraising efforts kicked off with a wine and cheese event hosted by Costeaux Bakery and organized by **Judy Edmonds** and E. J. Neil. Topel Winery generously provided the wine. The event was well-attended by members and guests and raised approximately \$1000 for Tech Trek. Thanks to all the members who contributed during and after the event.

This year we also received donations from two outside organizations. Sonic.net, which also contributed last year, is a Santa Rosa-based telecommunications and internet service provider. We thank them for their continued support. Our other contributing outside organization this year was Soroptimist International of Healdsburg, whose mission is "to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world." They funded the cost of one girl through their Shannon Boaz Scholarship for Active Girls. Shannon was an SIH member who died of leukemia in 2009. We thank them too for sharing our commitment to supporting talented girls in our community.

We are also grateful to the five members who donated to Tech Trek during the last few months. They include **Mary Lee McCune, Judy Voigt, Judith Olney, Amy Neel, and Karen Fanucchi**. Judith was last year's Tech Trek Fundraising Committee Chair and served as a dorm mom at Stanford this past summer. Both Amy and Karen serve on the committee to select our Tech Trek girls each year. As Amy so aptly put it, "I'm honored to support Tech Trek! It's a great opportunity for girls because it rewards their intellectual curiosity in a collaborative environment where brain research tells us girls learn best." You all deserve a big round of applause!

Thanks also to this year's Tech Trek Fundraising Team, which included **Karla Rosen, Kathy Principi** (both new members), **Charlene Luks, Sue Campbell** (once and future dorm mom and this year's Tech Trek Fundraising Chair), and **Janice Sceales** (who chairs the committee to select next year's Tech Trek girls). We all appreciate your efforts to help fund our girls' experiences at Tech Trek. As **Judy Edmonds** stated, "Beginning with my experience as the first camp dorm mother from Healdsburg, over the last five years I have seen young girls transform from uncertain adolescents into confident young women with a purpose. Tech Trek is a life-changer!"

—Sue Campbell

AAUW Happy Hour
for Drinking-Age Lovers and
Friends



February 7, 2013

5 to 7 p.m.

Ramazzotti and Mercury

Tasting Room

21015 Geyserville Avenue

Geyserville, CA

707/814-0016

Please bring a cold appetizer to share.

February 7 is our next AAUW Happy Hour. Grab your valentine and come for some food, friendship, and fine wine at the Ramazzotti and Mercury Tasting Room in beautiful downtown Geyserville.

Joe and Norma Ramazzotti of Ramazzotti Wines, along with Brad and Grady Beard of Mercury Wines, will be offering a tasting of four of their wines for \$5 per person. (You may choose two reds and two whites, four reds, or four whites to taste for \$5.)

Ramazzotti Wines are handcrafted, small lot artisan wines which include Cabernet, Super Tuscan, Zinfandel, Sparkling, Chardonnay, Sangiovese, and port.

Mercury Wines specializes in estate bottled Bordeaux style blends, small lots of Pinot Noirs, and esoteric white wines. A 15% discount will be applied toward the purchase of a bottle of wine and a 20% discount will be applied toward the purchase of a case.

RSVP by February 4 to vivfurlong@aol.com.

—Viv Furlong

Cultural Events

Santa Rosa Symphony Rehearsal

Saturday, February 9, 2013

Have you been to the new Green Music Center to enjoy a performance by the Santa Rosa Symphony? Our next cultural event, scheduled for Saturday, February 9 is an opportunity to attend a concert rehearsal for only \$12. The program features a Mozart concerto and a Brahms symphony. The rehearsal begins at 2 p.m. We will carpool and park at the music center parking lot. Parking is \$10 per car. More details about the program are available on the web. Tickets can be purchased the day of the performance at the door. Are there any suggestions for a lunch out beforehand? In order to RSVP for the Santa



Rosa Symphony rehearsal and to receive more information about carpooling, phone or email **Lida Simmons** as soon as possible at 431-2141, vsimmons6@comcast.net. Another event coming up is AAUW Santa Rosa authors' luncheon with a panel of three or four authors. Members of the Healdsburg branch have been invited to attend. It will be held at the Flamingo Hotel **Sunday, April 21**. Perhaps a carpool can be arranged. Please call or email Lida for more information. **—Lida Simmons**

Dinners for 8

This last dinner event was again a great success. Four hostesses opened their homes to guests and all four dinners were very much enjoyed by everyone. Therefore we have decided to repeat this event on Friday, March 1 and again in May; that date is still to be set.

If you are interested in participating please contact **Helle Siegert**, hellesiegert@aol.com as soon as possible, but **no later than February 15**.



The above dinner was hosted by Ann Allan in January.

In the past the hostess has served the main course, and the guests have brought side dishes, dessert, appetizer, and wine; however, the hostess can arrange it any way she wants.

We try to plan dinners so the hostess is assigned people she may not know well, as this gives hosts and guests a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other.

I hope to see you....

—Helle Siegert

ACRONYMS

Have the acronyms and nicknames for our many activities left you in the alphabet soup? Here are a few:

TECH TREK—Science and technology camp at Stanford for eighth grade girls.

HEF—Healdsburg Education Foundation. Our AAUW branch makes grants to HEF to fund projects in the local schools. This year we funded K-5 science enrichment.

SRJC—Santa Rosa Junior College. We fund scholarships for reentry women through SRJC.

EYH—Expanding Your Horizons is a one-day program in April exposing junior high students, mostly girls, to careers in sciences through hands-on workshops. Although AAUW does not run this program, we contribute and provide volunteers.

GEMS—Girls Engaged in Math and Science includes follow-up activities for our Tech Trek girls and others interested in science.

CommunityVIPs—Volunteers in Partnership with Community: AAUW members who offer to assist other local nonprofits, thereby increasing our exposure in the community and providing help to good causes.

—Charlene Luks

The 23rd Annual Healdsburg Homes Tour

Even though it is only February, work on the Healdsburg Homes Tour is underway. As you read this the Advertising and Sponsorship Committee is selling advertisements to go in the program. If you know of anyone who might like to place an ad, please let Cynthia Adam know (431-8605 or cdadam@aol.com). The costs are \$400 for a half-page ad, \$200 for a quarter of a page ad which is perfect for business cards, and \$100 to be listed as a supporter. Please don't delay as our deadline is mid-March. Thank you for helping us and for supporting the Healdsburg Homes Tour.

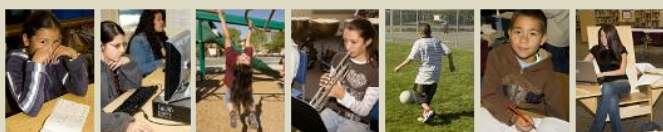
—Cynthia Adam

Condolences

This month a sympathy card was sent to **Joan Reid** whose husband recently passed away. Joan was until last year a longtime member of the Healdsburg branch of AAUW.

—**Sheila Kneass**, Corresponding Secretary

A Thank You Letter from the Healdsburg Education Foundation



Dear AAUW Members,

Wow! Thank you for your very generous gift to the children of Healdsburg. The elementary enrichment program is so strong and wonderful for the kids. I was asking a fifth grader yesterday what her favorite thing about school was and she said, "Enrichment!" It wouldn't be possible without all of you.

Thank you again.

Gina Fontana,
President of Healdsburg Education Foundation

Recent Changes

Barb Reid - blsreid@gmail.com

Kay Mattei katydid4348@gmail.com

Winky Merrill 707/431-1550

—**Gail Wright**, Membership

New Member

Georgia Helthall

In the 1970s Georgia attended Ohio University at Athens where she majored in history. "We were not able to have a graduation ceremony though, as the National Guard closed down the campus because of the recent Kent State shooting."



After graduation she taught middle school for two years in Delaware. Then she and her husband moved to California for his job with Bechtel. First they settled in the South Bay, where Georgia served as a library assistant in Foster City. She was always interested, and deeply involved in, various school activities. In addition to PTA and other related volunteer groups, she became a Foster City school board member. Although in Maryland she served as local literacy coordinator for adults, "I was really more interested in children."

The Helthalls recently completed remodeling and adding on to the Healdsburg home they purchased on Fitch Mountain Road. Georgia's husband Eric still works with Bechtel and travels two weeks a month with his job. They have traveled frequently to various venues including Singapore, New Zealand, Europe, and Saudi Arabia. "The trips are mostly involved with my husband's business." She joined AAUW through her friendship with **Pat Bertapelle**, who lived down the street from her in Foster City. "Before we moved here, I was really too busy to join anything, but now I'm finding the association has so much to offer!" She enjoys gardening, book clubs, and plays golf once a week, in addition to working out at the local gym club every day. "And because of my dedication to school programs, I'm looking to becoming more involved with AAUW's educational support activities."

—**Gloria Norton**

The *Grapevine* is published online each month, except in July and August. Mailed subscriptions are available for \$20 per year. Please submit articles, announcements, and photographs by the 15th of the month for the following month to the *Grapevine* Editor, Deana Fusco, deana.fusco@sbcglobal.net.