

February Speaker Series

Breaking the Glass Ceiling for Women in Social Security

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Healdsburg High School Library, 1024 Prince Street at Powell

5:00 Social Gathering, 5:30 AAUW Business, 5:45 Speaker

Carroll L. Estes, PhD

Professor and Founding Director of Institute for Health and Aging
University of California San Francisco

Carroll L. Estes is a leading scholar and educator in policy on aging, geriatrics, Social Security, Medicare, and long term care. She has devoted her career through research, teaching, and public service, to improving the health and economic security of vulnerable and underserved populations, with special attention to women, older persons, and minorities. She has authored, co-authored, and co-edited 24 books.



Estes is also the author of a report, jointly with NOW President, Terry O'Neill, and the President of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, Heidi Hartmann, on women and Social Security. The report is available on the website of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security Foundation www.ncpssfoundation.org. For her presentation, she will describe women's stake in Social Security, practical, positive improvements that can be made in this program to better address women's lives, and how to achieve this greatly needed modernization of Social Security. Estes will also discuss women's stake in Medicare and the challenges it faces.

—Karen Danielson and Rita Minkin

President's Message



Here we are already a month into the New Year! I first wanted to share with you the thanks I received from the principal of Healdsburg Elementary School, Stephanie Feith, for our year-end donations. She wrote: "Thank you so much for donating your time and energy to the students at Healdsburg Elementary/Healdsburg Charter School. The students in the first grade were thrilled to receive the donated books and look forward to their time with the Reading Rocks ladies. We'd also like to thank you for the school supplies! The students and staff at HES/HCS appreciate your generosity."

I also wanted to acknowledge the hard-working Tech Trek fundraising team, led by **Charlene Luks**, which raised enough money to send our eight girls to camp this year (one more than last year). We now have more of our Homes Tour money to give away to worthy organizations like PSST (Public School Success Team). The Board is also currently evaluating options for creating a junior college scholarship for a graduating Healdsburg High School girl and purchasing new laptops for Tech Trek.

I attended my first speaker series/member meeting of the year last month and enjoyed listening to Georgia Berland discuss ending homelessness in Sonoma County. She was a fascinating speaker. Thanks to **Rita Minkin** and **Karen Danielson** for putting together such an intriguing list of speakers for us this year. I also enjoyed listening to

Judy Edmonds' passionate enthusiasm for the Career Choices program before Georgia's presentation. It is such a successful program that we plan to nominate it for a branch recognition award at this year's state convention.

Last but not least, February 1 is the opening day to buy Homes Tour tickets online. We're hoping to raise our number of tickets sold this year, so we will have even more funds to give away for scholarships next year. And all our members can do their part by buying tickets, both event and raffle. Don't delay!
—**Sue Campbell**

WINE-N-DINE

Wine-n-Dine will be taking place again on February 7. If you would like to participate please email **Helle Siegert** (hellesiegert@gmail.com).

This has been a very popular event in the past. You may sign up to be either guest or hostess. As a hostess you will be assigned two or more couples (your choice) to come to your house for dinner. The hostess will assign what she wants the guests to bring and the time she wants them to arrive.

Deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 2.

—**Helle Siegert**

Did you know?

New members who join between now and March 15 get a good deal and pay only \$60.50 for dues valid until June 30, 2014. If they join after March 15 they pay the regular rate of \$85 and their dues are valid until June 30, 2015.
—**Gail Wright**



AAUW 2014 HOMES TOUR

Sunday, May 4, 2014

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AAUW Healdsburg Homes Tour is in Full Swing

Thanks to **Ann Mahoney**, **Liz Loebel**, and the home owners, we now have the full contingent of six homes, all located within the boundaries between Fitch and First Streets. The advertising and sponsorship team under the leadership of **Cynthia Adam** is out trying to match or exceed last year's biggest ever contribution to the bottom line. The raffle donor team is gathering donations for six raffle baskets. If you are able to make or get even one donation of lodging, wine, wine pairings, or certificates for goods and services in Healdsburg, contact raffle donor co-chairs, **Candy Danhausen** candyjetta@comcast.net or **Terry Rosenstock** terryrosenstock@gmail.com.

Starting February 1 not only will you be able to order tour tickets online, but you are strongly urged to do so before February 28. If there is anyone who hasn't read or heard **Ronnie Devitt's** harangue about why tickets should be purchased in February, email her vdevitt@comcast.net, call her 473-0595, or push the button on her forehead when you see her for auto-replay of the spiel.

As noted in last month's *Grapevine*, it is illegal to sell raffle tickets online. Therefore, starting at the February Speakers Series Meeting, you may either purchase or pick up the raffle tickets you wish to buy or sell. Tickets will also be available at the Lunch Bunch, Wine-N-Dine, and Cultural Event outings as well as at book clubs, bridge groups, and all other interest groups beginning in February. If you are willing to distribute and/ or sell tickets at any of your group events, or if you need tickets, contact raffle ticket sales chair **Shannon Barton-Wren** Shannon@wreninternational.com.

Your contribution to Homes Tour, our major fund raising event, is important. The great programs supported by the proceeds do not have dozens of other donors lining up. We have 160 members. If each of us contributes \$100 in tour or raffle tickets or donations, we have a cushion of \$16,000. The \$3500 scholarships we give to SRJC women may make a difference whether the recipient has money for childcare or can reduce the outside hours she works to support her education. If we do not have it in the budget, we cannot provide the Christmas books for first graders. The majority of our first graders have never owned a book. If you could see the joy in those little faces receiving a "free book to take home and keep," you could not ignore our plea for support. Donations may be made online on the ticket purchase page or by check sent to the treasurer, **Phil Wright**. Donations \$100 and above will be acknowledged in the tour brochure unless you wish to remain anonymous. Thank you.

—**Ronnie Devitt** and **Janet Hoehn**, Co-chairs, HHT

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/healdsburgaauw/.

Community Services

Letters from Two Former Tech Trekkers

*Usually on the Community Services pages we feature some of the remarkable programs we support as a branch to help our local community in promoting education. This month I wanted to focus on two of the girls who attended Tech Trek and are now on the cusp of adulthood. I was dorm mother to Helen Ann Haun (Cloverdale) and have seen her amazing transformation. **Tami Weiner-Stout** had the pleasure of being dorm mom to Shaina Meier, (Geyserville), another extraordinary young woman.*

I hope you all read this and realize the importance of the work we do. Whether being a Tech Trek dorm mom, a Reading Rock volunteer, working on the Homes Tour, or fundraising, everything we do is our investment in the future!

—Judy Edmonds

Shaina Meier

In seventh grade, I was a shy, introverted girl from a small middle school. I had an intense passion for learning, specifically science, but the environment I was raised in made it difficult for me to imagine attending a large college or branching out from my community. When I found out that I had been nominated for Tech Trek, I felt a mixture of excitement and fear. I was incredibly excited to be offered the opportunity to visit such a prestigious university and partake in advanced science programs, but I was also terrified. I had never been away from home more than one night at a time, and I had never been very good at making friends. My excitement increased exponentially when I was accepted. I knew that being accepted was an honor, but I had no idea how much this experience would change my life.

My parents have always told me that the girl they dropped off at Stanford University that first day was completely different from the girl they picked up a week later. Yes, I had made friends and learned skills that would stay with me for a lifetime, but I had changed on a much deeper level than that. I gained a new level of confidence and independence. Things I had

seen as impossible before were now goals I held in my mind and intended to accomplish. I also gained a new direction in my education. I had always wanted to have a career in science, but after taking a class in forensic chemistry at Stanford, I realized that that was where I belonged. Now I had a goal, and strode towards it with a confidence I had never before experienced. Instead of being the quiet girl with the book, I had evolved into a confident young woman who immediately started trying to change her world.

Looking back, that trip to summer camp feels like decades ago, but I still feel its influence in my life. I am now a senior in high school. I am at the top of my class, and was elected student body president. In my freshman year I was accepted to the Upward Bound program, a college preparatory program for first generation college students, and have stayed with that program ever since. Over the summer I attended Girls' State in San Diego as the



delegate representative for Geyserville High School. I am now applying to Reed College, Stanford, and University of Chicago. I plan to study chemistry with a focus in forensics. Tech Trek helped me find my drive and realize what I wanted to do with my life,

and I am forever grateful to the AAUW for giving me this amazing gift. It truly opened so many doors for me and I plan to make the most out of my life!

—Shaina Meier

Helen Ann Haun



Helen Ann (on the left) in the lab.

I just finished my first term as a freshman at Oregon State and am currently majoring in bioengineering.

into research, specifically biomedical research.

Next term I am taking vector calculus, chemistry, health and human sciences, engineering problem solving, which teaches us how to solve problems like an engineer, and yoga. I joined the track team, so I start indoor pole vaulting season in a couple of weeks.

Last term I took intro to biology, chemical engineering, and environmental engineering—an interesting class because we were introduced to various fields of the different majors and learned what we could do with our majors after we graduate. So after that class I am thinking I want to go

I really want to thank AAUW for sending me to Tech Trek. It was an outstanding experience and it changed my life!

—Helen Ann Haun

Moved recently?? Changed your email address?? Phone number??

Please send that information to me at philandgail@comcast.net so I can keep our directories current. Thanks.

Change of Email Address

Lida Simmons lss3@comcast.net

New Member Email Address

Pat Callahan
pcallahan@healthcarefoundation.net

—Gail Wright

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

CULTURAL GROUP FEBRUARY EVENT



Georgia O'Keefe and Lake George Exhibit

De Young Museum, San Francisco
Wednesday, February 26

The Cultural Group will head to San Francisco's De Young Museum on Wednesday, February 26 to enjoy the special Georgia O'Keefe Exhibit. Please go to the following web site for more information:

<http://deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/exhibitions/modern-nature-georgia-okeeffe-and-lake-george>.

We'll depart from the Foss Creek Community Center soccer field parking lot on Healdsburg Avenue at 8:30 a.m. and carpool to San Francisco, with the intent of visiting the O'Keefe Exhibit at 10:30 a.m. We'll depart the museum around 12:30 p.m. and head to Sausalito where we'll have lunch at the Spinnaker Restaurant.

De Young ticket costs will vary depending upon the number in our group and the number of members who may obtain free tickets. Therefore, if you are planning to join us, please contact **Lynda Guthrie** at guthrie.lynda@gmail.com by February 5, 2014. Please provide:

- 1.) your name and the name(s) of any guests who will be joining you and
- 2.) the number of free tickets you can contribute. If we have a group of ten or more, non-member tickets will be in the \$7 - \$8 range. Arrangements will be made based on the information received as of February 5.

—Lynda Guthrie

Lunch Bunch

Thursday February 13

Place: Chinois Asian Bistro, 186 Windsor River Road, Windsor.

Date/Time: Thursday, February 13 at 11:45 a.m.

Menu: Enjoy a taste of contemporary Pacific Rim cuisine:

Chinois Organic Salad

Two main dishes served family style, Malaysian chicken satay and vegetarian curry (mildly spiced).

Dessert:

Coconut ice cream

Cost: \$25

includes your

three course lunch, tax, and tip. Beverages are extra.



Friends, food, and fun. How great is that?

Reserve your place now by mailing your reservation check *made out to B. Gruber* for \$25 so I receive it by Friday, February 7. Mail to 670 Bailhache Avenue, Healdsburg, CA 95448. I'm back in town on February 6 and will be opening all the mail then!

April Lunch Bunch reminder: Mark your calendar for **Thursday, April 10** for our spring lunch. Where? I'm working on it. Stay tuned...

—Barbara Gruber

MEMBER NEWS

Judy Edmonds has been asked to be one of the three judges at the Mr. Healdsburg contest on February 22, due in part to her activities with AAUW. It's a wild, raucous evening, but she's looking forward to it.

New Members

Sally Freelen lived in Cloverdale from 1999 to 2005, where she was active in AAUW and the Arts Council. She has been in Healdsburg

since May. She previously lived in Menlo Park where her husband was a professor at Stanford. Sally is a Stanford graduate with a BA in psychology. She was very active in the community there, serving as a board aide to a Santa Clara county supervisor for five years.

“I also was a stay-at-home mom, and heavily involved in community activities, not necessarily political, and in fundraising. I did outreach and writing, and of course volunteered in the children’s school involvements such as girl scouts and PTA where I had opportunities to interact with a variety of people.

“We like living here (Healdsburg) and are involved in a major house renovation that we hope will be done by soon. Our children are in the Menlo Park area, but we feel close enough that we can see them frequently. We haven’t traveled much because of work schedules, but are planning a trip to Italy next year.”

Sally’s interests include cooking; she has been involved with Chefs’ Squad dinners, and is looking forward to hosting one when her kitchen is complete, and is looking into the Healdsburg High culinary program for possible volunteer activity. She also plans to join an AAUW book club.



Wendy Bertalon was born in Southern California where her family had a cattle ranch; she then moved to Marin where she attended College of Marin and Indian Valley College studying accounting and business management. “My husband and I moved to Healdsburg 25 years ago and have lived on the same property for 24 years where we ran a construction business.”

Her husband passed away suddenly this summer, and she says her job has multiplied, which keeps her busy, but she is looking forward to her son's wedding and meeting new family in addition to becoming more involved in the community.

She has traveled extensively around the world, recently to the South Pacific, New Zealand, Fiji, and previously to Japan, China, “all over Europe,” Mexico, the Baltic capitals, Panama Canal, and other venues.

“I like to cook and am planning to cook for a bicycle race from Oceanside to the East Coast, a two-man relay for a benefit of fallen firefighters.” She previously cooked for a group traveling on the Colorado River.

AAUW activities include volunteering for the homes tour and being a dorm mom last summer after she heard about it from a speech to the Soroptomist Club where she also is a member.



Monica Pecarovich moved to



Healdsburg four years ago from Claremont. She works full time in Santa Rosa as administrator–program manager, special education, for the Santa Rosa city

school district. In her position, she supports parents and school teams in implementing IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) for students with special needs in navigating the special education process as well as collaborating with community resources in supporting students with special needs.

She has a BS in liberal studies and master’s degrees in special education and administration from Azusa Pacific

University, and also a multiple-subject teaching credential.

Her special interests include going to movies, walking and hiking, especially at Lake Sonoma and local trails with friends. “Healdsburg is a wonderful hometown community. People are interested in making this town the best for each other.” She plans to retire in 2019 from public education and volunteer in local schools and the community. “We need to make sure as a community that we have all resources available at each school site: counselors, social workers, lunch and breakfast programs, before and after hours school programs, because so many parents have to work. Too many times teachers have to do it all and that is taking away from their focus on teaching.”

—**Gloria Norton**

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