



# The Grapevine

Healdsburg Branch

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

June, 2016 <http://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net> Vol.31 No.10

## INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

Saturday, June 4, 2016, 11 AM to 2 PM

Riverfront Regional Park, 7821 Eastside Road, Healdsburg

As the summer approaches, it is time to install the new slate of elected officers who will lead our branch in 2016-2017. You are all invited to our annual potluck luncheon and installation ceremony on Saturday, June 4, at Riverfront Regional Park. The festivities will begin at 11 AM and lunch will be served at noon. The installation ceremony will follow at 1 PM. **Please bring a dish to share: A to L please bring a dessert, M to Z please bring a salad.** Mimosas and water will be provided. **The Park has a parking fee of \$7 per vehicle, so carpooling is a must!**

*Please RSVP to Janice Sexton, [janicesexton46@gmail.com](mailto:janicesexton46@gmail.com) or 707-837-8001 by May 31.*

**Think of something to remind you to wear your name tag.**

— Janice Sexton

## SAVE THE DATE

## Summer Picnic and Trivia Contest

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the **Healdsburg AAUW Picnic** taking place on **Wednesday, August 10, from 4:00 – 8:00 PM.** As in past years, it will take place at the **Warm Springs Recreational Area at Lake Sonoma.**

This year, in addition to good conversation, always great weather, and sensational potluck food, the picnic will include a fun-for-all **Trivia Contest!** There will be laughs, groans, and surprises as you grapple with age-appropriate general knowledge questions (no mention of any Kardashian), as well as off-the-wall challenges covering just about anything. (For example: What is a period of play called in polo?) You may play alone or in teams. We will all want to participate, because it will be both fun and (at times) frustrating...and there will be prizes. Our master of ceremonies for **Trivia** will be our own Steve Cotler, who will also be researching and selecting the questions. You KNOW that this will be a most enjoyable event!

More details about the picnic will follow in email blasts in July. If you have any questions, please call or email me, at [cherylfrechette@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylfrechette@yahoo.com) or 707-570-7559.

— Cher Frechette



## OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### What a Year!

We have broken so many records this year due to the hard work and generosity of our members, it leaves even me almost speechless.

We now have over 200 members in a growing and vital branch in an era when other service organizations and some AAUW branches are declining in membership.

Our fundraising has exceeded all predictions. The Homes Tour was the most successful of all time. The Forum has offered 5 courses this year and continues to be not only a valuable community service, but also a significant fundraiser. Donations to **Healdsburg AAUW Fund** exceeded \$15,000 to support local scholarships and educational programs. Our members and the branch have contributed several thousands of dollars to national **AAUW Funds** to maintain the work of our larger organization in providing equity for women and girls. Even our fun tour to Oliver Ranch was a fundraiser.

This means:

- sending nine eighth grade girls to Tech Trek Camp at Stanford this summer;
- providing \$29,000 in scholarships to seven outstanding re-entry women graduating from Santa Rosa Junior College and going on to four-year colleges;
- providing \$14,000 in scholarships to girls graduating from Healdsburg, Cloverdale, and Windsor high schools;
- sending three girls to the Boys and Girls Club summer camp;
- granting \$14,500 to Healdsburg Education Foundation and \$2200 to Cloverdale Education Foundation;
- granting \$4000 to PSST (Public Schools Success Team); and
- providing \$500 grants to the Healdsburg Science Fair and Expanding Your Horizons.

Our community service programs, Future Prep: Career Choices & Life Skills, GEMS, and Reading Rocks, continue to help young people from first grade through high school.

We have more members actively involved in the public policy committee, two Great Decisions groups, four book clubs, many bridge clubs, hiking club, and one Scrabble group. And we do a lot of just plain fun things.

I am incredibly honored to be your president.

— **Ronnie Devitt**



## A Final Thank You!

This column is the last task that we will be completing as this year's Homes Tour Co-Chairs. For us the best thing about the tour was getting to know so many of you better, and watching you shine in supporting the effort. An added feature for the two of us was working so well together as a team. We all work hard to make the lives of women and girls better through volunteering and fundraising, and from what we have seen, there is no better organization in Healdsburg to accomplish that goal. When a friend relates that his young daughter had just been chosen for Teck Trek and is ecstatic about the adventure of going to Stanford, it puts all of what we do in perspective. Our hats are off to all of our membership!

**HHT** made almost \$50,000 from tour and raffle ticket sales, advertising, and sponsorships which, after expenses, netted over \$44,000. One of the best things to happen this year is that we seemed to get a number of new people attending the tour. Attendance was at a record 785 tour participants. Sales of tour and raffle tickets on the day of the tour totaled \$7030, a substantial increase from prior years. We benefitted from great publicity due to our publicity team and the luck of getting a *House Beautiful* cover house on the tour. Designer/owner [Ben Dhong](#) provided us with beautiful photos of the interior of his home, which we used extensively. Ben also was interviewed by the *Press Democrat* for a major article the day before the tour. We took advantage of paid advertising for the first time with ads in the local papers and the Santa Rosa Press Democrat.

There was a record number of sponsors and advertisers this year. While we won't mention each of them here, please make sure you support them, and mention that you are an **AAUW** member so they know how much we appreciate their contribution. We also are very grateful to our homeowners; we often are unaware of the extent of their preparation for the tour. They have told us they get caught up with improvements they have had on the books for years to make sure their home is in perfect shape for the tour.

We had fun running the tour, mainly because of our great committee members. While we cannot thank everyone who helped, we must mention the HHT team leaders. [Yvonne Schell](#) located six outstanding homes and worked with the homeowners for their permission to have their homes on the tour. Most of our visitors commented on the great diversity of homes on the tour and how much they enjoyed the selection. [Andrea Wolcott](#) handled sponsorships and advertising and brought in a record amount of money. We actually had to juggle the tour program to fit in all the ads, a great dilemma to have. [Kim Alexander](#) secured our big raffle prize, a "staycation" at the Farmhouse Inn and Spa. [Shally Schultz](#) organized the mailings and handled ticket sales. She was very busy the last few days before the tour with the bookstores continually running low on tickets!

**Sue Finan** and **Neita Comings** shared responsibility for publicity, with **Sue** crafting the articles and **Neita** submitting them to publications. **Sue** provided interesting articles and web page contributions and also proofed most of the ads, articles, and webpages we created for the tour. **Neita** also teamed with **Carol Noack** to arrange our first ever paid publicity effort. **Carol** was the genius behind crafting the ads, and **Neita** negotiated the deal with the *Press Democrat* in which they donated some free publicity. **Linda Clark** led the Communications effort with support from **Diane Burnley** editing the *Grapevine*, **Scarlett Woods** posting to Facebook, and **Joanne Johnston** preparing the AAUW website. As in past years, we were fortunate to have **Phil Wright** taking photos. He manages to make each home look special, and produces unique photos with such care we cannot help but admire his work. **Nancy Renkiewicz** did her second tour of duty in laying out the program for printing and ensuring that 800 programs were ready on tour day. **Denny Martin** took care of printed matter distribution. She organized 15 people whose job was to give out the almost 3,000 postcards and 250 posters you must have noticed around town.

**Charlene Luks** is an expert at getting volunteers, and coordinating the assignments for the close to 100 volunteers needed on tour day. Leading the docents was **Mary Jane Corson** who provided guidance for many of you as you presented and protected the homes. **Pat Swaney** convinced Russian River Tea to again donate tea for the event, and managed the servers of both the tea and our wonderful homemade cookies. **Maureen Keefe** created the new banners you saw in front of each home, worked with Ace Hardware to put up our big banner, and arranged for new signs for sponsors. Our Treasurer, **Winky Merrill**, took care of revenue and bills while managing the money for the organization as a whole. **Carol Hazlett** and **Neita Comings** deserve all of our thanks for putting on a fantastic after-party.

We also had help from a number of local contributors: **Healdsburg Museum** donated their space for check-in and the after-party, **Windsor Advocates for Music** and **Joella Olsen** arranged to get talented young musicians to play throughout the day, **Russian River Tea** gave us the tea for the refreshment house, **Amoruso Printing** donated graphic work in creating the program, and **Dragonfly Floral** created the floral arrangements for our homes at greatly discounted prices. Two other contributors cannot be forgotten. **Farmhouse Inn and Spa** donated the major raffle prize, and **Bella Vineyards and Wine Caves** donated and poured their wines for our after party. Almost 125 of us showed up for the party so that was a lot of wine!

Thank you all for supporting the tour through the purchase of tickets, donations, and your volunteer work on the day of the tour. This is a major effort that can only be achieved with the support of 200 friends.

— **Cecile Peters & Kim Alexander**, Co-chairs, 2016 Homes Tour

## COOKIES GALORE

**Thank you, thank you to all the generous bakers who once again provided delicious treats for our (record breaking) Homes Tour!** Your time, baking expertise, and tasty recipes were very much appreciated by our guests and by fellow **AAUW** members as well. The refreshment house is always a fun place to spend some time during the tour, and was an especially welcome and cool respite on a hot day. The delightful element of the tour would not be possible without all of the yummy cookies.

PS A special thanks to the wonderful baker who made the little cut-out butterfly cookies, and decorated them so prettily with blue and white icing! They were adorable and delicious! Our cookie arrangers added a few of them to many trays as a nice decoration. Please let us know who you are.

— **Pat Swaney**

# FORT ROSS CULTURAL TOUR



Our final cultural tour of the year, on May 13 to Fort Ross State Park, took twenty of us on the winding, but beautiful Highway One. A half hour north of Jenner, through forests, river, rolling hills, and steep cliffs overlooking the gorgeous Pacific Ocean, Fort Ross is a place of natural beauty and fascinating historical significance. Arriving in time we quickly toured the interesting museum, and watched a well-crafted movie of the history of the place. We were taken from its first Kashaya Indian inhabitants, to the arrival of Russians accompanied by Alaskan seafaring Indians looking for a settlement to supply their Alaskan fur trades with food and wood to build ships in 1812, and onwards to the farming settlements which followed the withdrawal of the Russians in 1841. We also surmounted in our reliable intrepid style, the difficulties of a broken water main which closed the modern restrooms.

We walked from the museum down to the sheltered picnic area overlooking the cliffs and brilliant blue sea for a lunch of sandwiches supplied by a local caterer. When we finished, our guide, Hank Birnbaum, a bilingual tour guide (Russian and English) and Program Director for the Fort Ross Conservancy, introduced us to the natural history of the place starting with the sea mammals still visible off the coastline, and stories of the past and current connection between the coastal Indian tribes and their Russian counterparts in Siberia.

Moving onto the fort compound itself we learned still more about the Russian settlement as we sat under the (blessed) shade of an apple tree, after which we visited various interesting buildings in the compound. We had a chance to view firsthand some the artifacts found at the site and to see one of our 'own' costumed as an Alaskan seafaring Indian (Ada Blackjack has nothing on Ronnie!) Finally, we traversed the highway to take a short walk past beautiful old growth trees to see the visible remnants of the 1906 earthquake, and the sag ponds it left behind, and the peaceful orchard which still produces fruit even on the three original 200 year old cherry trees!

Despite the wealth of information Hank so generously provided, we left with probably more questions than we had arrived with—all the more reason to visit again another time and bring family and friends to view this mostly hidden treasure at the very top of our county. Be sure to visit the Fort Ross website to learn first hand of the various festivals and celebrations that take place throughout the year in this lovely setting.

Our Guide, Frank....

**Ronnie Devitt**, dressed as an Alaskan settler during the Russian settlement of Fort Ross.



— **Jean Norelli**, article

— **Lynda Guthrie**, photos

# PUBLIC POLICY

## State AAUW Legislative Activity

I thought I would bring members up to date on the legislative activity of AAUW's California public policy committee. This, as many of you know, is a statewide **AAUW** committee that I serve on.

Before our March meeting each member of the committee was given three or four newly-introduced bills to analyze and evaluate. Then we met in Sacramento for two days to review each bill, make several passes through the list of bills, and come to agreement as to our legislative program for this session.

You can see the list that we came up with by clicking on this link while you press the Ctrl key on your keyboard:

<http://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=15&id=86d18572-6c2d-4694-9cb8-0ff25d633472>

The table of bills that you will see when you follow the link is designed to make it easy for our lobbyist and each of us on the committee to know the status of each bill at any given time: which committee it's in, what the various committee votes have been, and so on.

For example, the first bill on the list, AB 1676 (introduced again this year by Assembly Member Nora Campos), is our top priority for this legislative session. This is the same bill that Governor Jerry Brown vetoed last fall. It prohibits prospective employers from asking job applicants about their salary history (doing so perpetuates the inequity of lesser earnings for women). We feel this bill is so important that we have instructed our lobbyist to try again to make it happen. She reminded us that, when she deems the moment critical, it is vital that we get as many **AAUW** members as possible to travel to Sacramento to show the strength of our organization.

The hyperlinks in the table are functional. To learn more about AB 1676, for instance, click on the link and you get a summary, a history of the bill, where it is at this moment in committee, and links to various analyses of the bill and attachments that give background on the issue addressed by the bill. To learn more about the bill's author, click on the link that says *Campos*. And so on.

So, anytime you'd like to know more about what **AAUW** is doing in the realm of public policy, you can follow the link above and you will find an up-to-date list of bills we are supporting in Sacramento.

— Michele St. Clair



## MAY SPEAKER SERIES: HJH ROBOTICS

On Tuesday, May 10, Healdsburg **AAUW** had the opportunity to hear Healdsburg Junior High teacher, Patricia Murphy speak about the HJH Robotics Engineering class. According to Ms Murphy, “This course enables students to become engineers through the designing, creating, and programming of different robotics and technology challenges. We focus on how, and why machines work, and learn the basics of mechanical engineering and programming. Students use critical thinking skills, problem solving strategies, and imagination to develop LEGO Mindstorm robots. For their end-of-the-year culmination project, students have built and programmed robots for the Sonoma County and HJH Robotics Challenges.” (Patricia Murphy)

Following Patricia’s introduction of the Robotics Engineering class, three of her students demonstrated a robotic task with their own LEGO Mindstorm robots.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**THANK YOU FOR RENEWING YOUR 2016-17 MEMBERSHIP!**

Or, if you have forgotten that your membership expires June 30, you will soon receive another reminder from **AAUW National** informing you how to renew either online or by sending a check (made out to **AAUW** for \$94) to me, **Deana Fusco**, your membership chair, so that I can renew for you.

Watch for an email from [EONSupport@aauw.org](mailto:EONSupport@aauw.org).

Questions? [Membership.fusco@gmail.com](mailto:Membership.fusco@gmail.com) or (707)431-2576.

— Deana Fusco

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!**

We update the **Healdsburg AAUW** Membership Rosters again in June. Make sure your information is accurate so that your **AAUW** friends can reach you by email or phone.

— Deana Fusco

**NEW MEMBERS EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

Elsie Richardson

[elsiegianna@gmail.com](mailto:elsiegianna@gmail.com)

Kathy Kellet

[kathyk2@mac.com](mailto:kathyk2@mac.com)

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

### Patch Guglielmino



**Patch** has lived in Healdsburg for forty-six years. She volunteers as a Humanitarian Aid Worker, and is involved in her work

on many levels. She is the Hospital Chaplain at Healdsburg Hospital. At Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, she is a liaison in the Emergency Room sixteen hours weekly helping people cope with the crises they are experiencing. In addition, she is on the Hospice Team for St. Joseph Hospice in Healdsburg. She has a paid position with Santa Rosa Junior College at the Health and Safety Campus in Windsor where she participates in role playing to help responders handle emergency situations they will experience in their fields of work. Formerly, she worked with the Santa Rosa Police Department; she was on the patrol team for eight years. Then, she worked with the SRPD as a Crime Victims Advocate responding to crime scenes and helping victims.

**Patch** was on one of the first planes to New York after 9/11. She stayed at Ground Zero for seventy-one days, and returns yearly for health monitoring as part of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Act. The act is named for James Zadroga, of the NYPD, who died of respiratory failure in 2006. (His condition was related to his work at Ground Zero.) Many responders, including Patch, have suffered health issues due to being in the post 9/11 contaminated environment. **Patch's** book, *A Flag at Half-Mast*, is about her experiences during her first month at Ground Zero, and her book is offered on Amazon.

Having met **Patch**, I now have some understanding of the kinds of work Humanitarian Aid Workers do, and I can only imagine the strength and courage that it takes.

**Patch** is a writer, and loves to read. She has already joined the Monday night book club, and looks forward to making new friends through **AAUW**.

— Barbara Gruber

### Hillary S. Kambour



Wouldn't it be great, especially if you were a lawyer, if every time you walked into the courtroom, you knew you were on the right side? This was always **Hillary's**

conviction, for as a child advocate attorney, she represented the youngster, who was often in the middle of a messy situation. Whether it was neglect, abuse, visitation rights, or termination of parental rights, **Hillary** had only the best interest of the minor in mind. Her sole concern was to make sure the child got treated fairly, and had the chance to make it safely into adulthood.

**Hillary** grew up in San Francisco, but after meeting her husband while backpacking in the Arctic, she relocated to Miami. After practicing as a trial lawyer, she moved into supervision, and then did appeals at the appellate court level for her final fifteen years.

"I loved my job working with the kids, who were often frightened. I tried to make them feel comfortable, explaining what was going on, and helping them learn how to communicate with the judge, who was making all the decisions for their future. I found therapy dogs wonderful assets, especially in abuse cases: the kids will open up and talk to them!"

In 2005, while training for the Iron Man competition, **Hillary** and her husband, Mike, came to this area, and stopped on West Dry Creek Road to enjoy the view. They loved it, and finally moved here last June. The original thought was to maintain their Florida residence, but when Mike asked her which six months she wanted to not be here, she responded, "I don't want to not be here for even three weeks!" They sold their other place.

Good move, Counselor!

— Sue Finan



## Jane Martin



When seeing a vanity license plate, one might imagine what the owner is like. Examples include HI DEBT on a Tesla, AARR for a Pgh. Pirate fan, or CRAMPED on a VW Bug.

The same could hold true when viewing an interesting email address, which happened in Jane's case: hers begins with janescokies.... Might she be a Mrs. Fields? Or Martha Stewart?

Not unless you can envision either of the above as a Congolese dancer! **Jane** arrived at our interview wearing a leopard skirt ("I just like leopard prints!"). She's tall and graceful; both features helpful in visually telling a story via Congolese songs and dances, which can explore ideas and messages beyond ordinary dialogue.

"For example, we act out fishing, plowing, and picking fruit off trees," she said. "I joined Parkpoint Health Club soon after moving here from San Mateo two years ago, participated in one of the Congolese lessons, and fell in love with the uplifting and high energy classes!"

But what about cookies? "I'd always thought about starting some kind of a 'cookie thing', because I baked lots of cookies---for my kids, their friends, and also for the students on my two swim teams that I coached for twenty-two years. I regularly alter the Toll House recipe, and the cookie jar is always full. And I definitely plan on baking for the Healdsburg Homes Tour!"

Other **AAUW** interests? "I've enjoyed Bruce Elliott at the Forum, and am looking forward to joining the Lunch Bunch outings, as well as a couple of committees. Otherwise, my husband David, (the Artistic Director of Russian River Chamber Music) and I have a number of trips planned; we love to explore serendipitously."

And perhaps instead of the more common form of presenting one's expeditions on Facebook, **Jane** can relate her excursions through Congolese dancing!

— Sue Finan

## Barbara Micallef



**Barbara** moved "into town" last June after living out West Dry Creek Road in the valley for the past fifteen years. She says, "It's wonderful being so close to everything!"

When she lived in Walnut Creek she opened a retail store called Cornucopia. A few months later she opened a country antiques store in Danville. **Barbara** majored in Art at Stanford so her creative artist's eye led to enhancing objects in the antique store with dried flowers. She created dried flower arrangements in some of the old tins for sale in the store and customers were interested in buying the tins AND the arrangements. Like any savvy business person, she followed the interests of her customers and started teaching classes on making wreaths and arrangements with dried flowers. She noticed a need for a source to buy dried flower materials, and opened Sunflower Floral Supply which she later sold to a business partner.

Gardening is a source of joy to Barbara, and in Sonoma County she became a Master Gardener. (I took a wonderful class sponsored by Master Gardeners at Healdsburg Library about ten years ago, and **Barbara** was the teacher!)

**Barbara** is a water colorist specializing in painting still life and landscapes. She had a period of about eight years during which she didn't find time to paint. Now, the paintbrush is back in her hand, and she is taking a watercolor class at Foss Creek School.

**Barbara** belonged to **AAUW** in Walnut Creek in the sixties and seventies. She recently rejoined, and is interested in hiking, music, travel, and lectures. Welcome back to **AAUW, Barbara!**

— Barbara Gruber

# AAUW REMINDERS

## Consider being a “Buddy” ....

*New members are the life blood of our organization, and the experience of a new friend is invaluable.* If you are interested in being a “Buddy” for a new **AAUW** member please contact **Pat Bertapelle**, [pat@vbbn.com](mailto:pat@vbbn.com)

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](mailto:skneass@att.net) or (707) 433-5646.

The ***Grapevine*** is published online each month, except July and August. Please submit articles, announcements, and photographs by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the following month to the ***Grapevine*** editor, **Diane Burnley**, [dburnley@aol.com](mailto:dburnley@aol.com)