

## Installation Luncheon

**Saturday, June 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Riverfront Regional Park**

**7821 Eastside Road, Healdsburg**



As summer approaches, it is time to install the new slate of elected officers who will lead our Branch in 2015-2016. You are all invited to our annual potluck luncheon and installation ceremony on Saturday, June 6, at Riverfront Regional Park.

The festivities will begin at 11 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. The installation ceremony will follow at 1 p.m. We will have two guest speakers as follows: **Terry Leach** will be addressing the Board's strategic planning process and *A Portrait of Sonoma*, and **Charlene Luks** will be explaining our new focus on pre-K education. **Please bring a dish to share: A to L please bring a salad; M to Z please bring a**

**dessert.** Wine and water will be provided. **Please RSVP to Judy Widlow, [calgal10@gmail.com](mailto:calgal10@gmail.com) or 707/473-0300 by May 31.** Think of something to remind you to wear your nametag.

—Judy Widlow

**The Park has a parking fee of \$7 per vehicle, so carpooling is a must! Directions are as follows:**

Take Highway 101 South, exit Old Redwood Highway, continue south on Old Redwood past Prickett's Nursery [old Healdsburg Nursery] until you come to Rodney Strong Winery; turn right onto Eastside Road until you come to 7821 Eastside Road (on the right-hand side), which is Riverfront Regional Park. (See the May *Grapevine* for a link and map.)



## SAVE THE DATE!

**AAUW Annual Summer Picnic**

**Wednesday, August 12, 4–8 p.m.**

**Lake Sonoma Redwood Hollow Picnic Site**

Help on this event committee is needed. Please contact

**Ceci or Stan Salomon, Co-chairpersons, if you are able to join us. [stan61@pacbell.net](mailto:stan61@pacbell.net)**

## President's Message



Congratulations to **Ronnie Devitt** and **Cecile Peters** on another successful Homes Tour! And thanks to all of you who participated in its success. It's a tremendous effort for all of us but with

incredible rewards for the recipients of our donations from its proceeds.

Thanks too to those of you who attended the May members' meeting/Speaker Series and voted on our new Board members and bylaws change. We now have a new Fundraising Chair, **Janet Hoehn**, who will coordinate with our various fundraising efforts, including the Homes Tour, the Forum, and Tech Trek.

Since this is my last message to you as President, I wanted to thank all our amazing Board members, some of whom will be exiting the Board and others who will be continuing. **Charlene Luks**, who has served on the Board for nine years, is one of those who will be exiting. Charlene has served as President, Vice President, and Past President, as well as Homes Tour Chair and Scholarships Chair. Her impact on the Board has been significant and her presence will be missed. **Yvonne Hyatt**, who has served as Board Secretary for the past two years, will also be leaving us. Yvonne has been an amazing secretary; I didn't know how well the job could be done until Yvonne came on board. **Gail Wright**, who has served as our Membership Chair for the past five years, is also moving on. Gail leaves a real legacy in the membership role. During her tenure, membership has increased 40% and we have added several roles to her committee, including a second New Member Profile Writer, and a Membership Assistant in charge of name badges and updating the membership page on the website. **Diane Bartleson** will also be exiting as Speaker Series Chair. Diane, along with her Co-chair **Winky Merrill**, created one of the most interesting Speaker Series we've ever had. In addition to the Speaker Series, Diane also started a new Career Choices program in Cloverdale, so she's made a tremendous impact on the Branch this past

year. **Cecile Peters** will be leaving the Board, but continuing as Homes Tour Co-chair along with **Kim Alexander**.

Other Board members will either be continuing in their present roles or changing to new ones. **Ronnie Devitt** will become our new President after serving as Homes Tour Chair for the past three years and Vice President for the past two. **Nancy Haiston** will become our new Vice President after serving as Communications Chair for two years. **Winky Merrill** will start her second year as Treasurer, **Judy Edmonds** will continue as Community Services Chair, **Michele St.Clair** will continue as National Issues/Public Policy Chair, and **Lynda Guthrie** will continue as Social Activities Chair. Our new Board members include **Violet Nelson** as Secretary, **Linda Clark** as Communications Chair, **Andrea Michelsen** as Scholarships and Grants Chair, **Deana Fusco** as Membership Chair, and **Heidi Blumenthal** as Speaker Series Chair. Thank you and welcome to all of you! (See page 3 for a complete list.)

It's with mixed emotions that I step down as President. I've enjoyed serving the Branch in this role and have learned a lot about what AAUW stands for and how it makes a difference in many people's, particularly women's, lives. I'm also proud to have been a part of the Board's strategic planning process this past year, which has resulted in some important changes to our Branch. We became a 501(c)(3) and started the Forum, which has raised almost \$30,000 in only four months. We also initiated the role of Fundraising Chair, put renewed focus on our new members and how to best involve them in the Branch, and discovered a whole new avenue for our grants and services—preschool education—through our introduction to *A Portrait of Sonoma*. I feel that it's a great honor to be part of such an exciting and thriving Branch. We should all feel lucky to be members.

So please come celebrate our successes, and our fantastic Board members new and old, at our annual Installation Luncheon on Saturday, June 6, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., at Riverfront Regional Park. I look forward to seeing you all there! —**Sue Campbell**

## 2015-2016 Officers and Directors

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Ronnie Devitt
Past President	Sue Campbell
Vice President	Nancy Haiston
Secretary	Violet Nelson
Treasurer	Winky Merrill
Communications	Linda Clark
Community Services	Judy Edmonds
Fund Raising	Janet Hoehn
Grants & Scholarships	Andrea Michelsen
Membership	Deana Fusco
National Issues & Public Policy	Michele St.Clair
Speaker Series	Heidi Blumenthal
Social Activities	Lynda Guthrie



April Cultural Event at the McEvoy Ranch

## Final Reminder!

**JUNE 15, 2015 ...**

**The deadline for renewing  
your membership for 2015-16**

## A Word about Our Membership

Twenty-six new members! And since July 1! Yes, we've grown a bit! The variety of our Branch's activities in community support, fundraising, interest groups, and the quality of our membership all contribute to that growth. A large percent of our membership is actively involved in one way or another. We seem to be the "go to" club for newcomers to town. Who wouldn't want to be part of our group?

As part of our Strategic Planning session, we want our members to keep our sense of community. In the months ahead, our membership committee will be making an effort to keep that personal touch by organizing New Member Coffees or Potlucks. (See **Terry Leach's** article about the potluck in this issue on page 7.) These socials provide a chance for new members to learn more about our Branch and to meet each other and our Board members. We'll also be calling new members at their sixth month anniversary to see how they're doing and how we're doing as well. A small number of random calls will additionally be made to our current members with similar questions. When **Pat Bertapelle** calls asking you to be a Buddy to a new member, consider helping us keep that personal touch. Our new members are great! Thank you **everybody** for all that you do!

—Gail Wright

## AAUW Name Badges

Have you lost or misplaced yours, or maybe you would like a second name badge? Please contact **Patty McHugh**, [goodlifebuenavida@yahoo.com](mailto:goodlifebuenavida@yahoo.com), 707/ 395-0568.



## A Final Thank You!

This column is my last act as Homes Tour Co-chair. Contrary to popular belief, being chair of HHT is not like being deported to a slave labor camp in Siberia for ten months. You are not cut off from the outside world. The chair gets to stay in Healdsburg, travel freely, be electronically connected and constantly interacting with a great group of volunteers. So I am not jumping for joy at giving up the position I've had for the last three years. It has been extremely gratifying. I know that **Cecile Peters** and **Kim Alexander** will also have this experience of a lifetime.

HHT made over \$38,000 from Tour and raffle ticket sales and advertising and sponsorships. The final results will be published on the website. Tour ticket sales were down from the last two years and raffle sales were about half of last year's in spite of fabulous prizes. This year we refrained from pressuring members to buy or sell raffle tickets, giving them the option of doing that or making a tax deductible gift to Healdsburg AAUW Fund, our now approved 501(c)(3) corporation. Guess what? Raffle sales were down but donations did not go up. Next year's co-chairs will have to re-evaluate whether to return to the strong-arm tactics of "at least one tour ticket and \$60 worth of raffle tickets or else..."

Seriously, it was a very fine Homes Tour. I cannot thank you all individually, but I must thank the HHT team leaders. **Liz Loebel** and **Yvonne Schell** chose the homes that many Tour goers said were the best yet. **Nancy Haiston** and **Karen Fanucchi** made sure the HHT web site was up and running. **Patty McHugh** broke records for selling sponsorships and advertising. **Shally Schultz** organized the mailings.

**Candy Danhausen** and her team got raffle prizes from over 50 donors and then took charge of raffle sales. **Katherine Lacy** handled publicity. Phil Wright took the professional photographs of the homes. **Debbie Potmesil** stepped in to sell tickets at the Forum and work all day at the event. **Charlene Luks** got the volunteers for the day of and **Mary Jane Corson** led the docents. **Nancy Renkiewicz** laid out the program for printing. **Carol Noack** taught us a lot about improving our printed materials. **Pat Swaney** was the Queen of Cookies and iced tea. My co-chair **Cecile Peters** took on the role of HHT treasurer in addition to several other duties, including reviewing the daily deluge of emails. **Carol Hazlett** and **Neita Comings** put on the fantastic after party.

Two of our members who weren't on the HHT team deserve the biggest thanks of all. Thank you, **Barbara Wentzel** and **Ann Allan** for allowing your beautiful homes to be on the Tour.

Thank you all for your contribution to making this a successful fundraiser.  
—**Ronnie Devitt**

### It's All About The Cookies!

**Thank you**, thank you to all the generous cookie bakers who once again provided delicious treats for our Homes Tour. Your time, baking talent, and tasty recipes are so very much appreciated by our guests and by AAUW members as well. The refreshment house is always a fun place to be on Homes Tour day, and adds a festive, social and relaxing element to the Tour, which simply would not be possible without all those yummy cookies.

With appreciation,

—**Pat Swaney**





**Pictures from the  
Homes Tour Post  
Party —Jean Short**



## Community Service: *Professional Women's Night*

Healdsburg AAUW GEMS Program thanks members **Kathy Principi, Cathy Chiminello, Lavonne Nameny, Hala Alshahwaney, Ronnie Devitt, and Stan Salomon** for participating in our GEMS

Professional Women's Night in April at the Healdsburg Public Library Forum Room. This year we also added two women still working in their STEM careers, Amy Vacarri, CFO at Metier Software Development

Company, Healdsburg, and Hilary Minor, atmospheric scientist, Sonoma Technology Inc., an air quality control company in Petaluma. Their career stories and words of wisdom were well received, if only by a few but eager and motivated young women!

Solving the Equation: #AddWomen, sponsored by AAUW, concluded "In less than 10 years the United States will need 1.7 million more engineers and computer scientists. Adding women strengthens the talent pool and leads to better creativity, innovation, and productivity." So thank you once again for reaching out to our local young women to make a difference and share your experiences to support our AAUW mission: supporting equity for women and girls.

—Victoria Toboni



## **AAUW National Election: Ballot Proposal Would Drop College Degree Requirement**

A proposal to eliminate AAUW's college degree requirement for membership is on the national ballot, sponsored not by the board of directors but by a member of AAUW. Chances are you feel strongly about this controversial issue. Another proposal would highlight our support of the Equal Rights Amendment, and there are other key issues on the ballot as well. Make sure you vote by June 19 to make your voice heard! Click the link to vote. <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>

—Michele St.Clair

## **AAUW Healdsburg Public Policy Committee Report**

As a result of strategic planning undertaken by the AAUW Board of Directors in December, the Public Policy Committee has been asked to mobilize our Branch to advocate on behalf of a policy issue of importance to the national AAUW leadership in the coming year.

Many AAUW members may not have had the opportunity to review the national AAUW website to learn about the issues for which our organization exists. The Public Policy Committee encourages all members to review the site to help learn about the history and objectives of AAUW, as well as our breadth and significant impact on issues of importance to girls and women. Below please find a link to the advocacy page on the national AAUW site for member review:

<http://www.aauw.org/issues/advocacy/>

Working with her committee, which includes **Diane Bartleson, Hala Alshahwany, Terry Leach, Denny Martin, Kathryn Henderson, and Ann Allan**, Public Policy Chair **Michele St.Clair** elected to provide an anonymous survey to the entire membership that included five choices from the national slate of critical advocacy directions in order to give the membership the opportunity to select the first sanctioned policy direction for our branch. The survey results can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-ZX7F36H9/>

Approximately 30% of the membership responded to the survey, overwhelmingly voting to start with supporting advocacy efforts on behalf of education for girls, including preschool and STEM.

The membership also strongly supported a menu of advocacy options, including engaging in voter registration efforts, aligning our speaker series with

policy objectives, contacting elected officials, and engaging in rapid response when an issue is up for consideration.

The Committee is delighted to look at methods to increase support for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education and may begin looking at tools that AAUW may already have created to “educate educators” in the Healdsburg area about the importance of supporting STEM in our schools for girls. The Committee is also planning to have some of its members attend the next Sonoma County Health Action meeting in June to learn about the effort to expand universal preschool throughout the county, and how philanthropic organizations like ours might be able to begin working with other organizations working throughout the county on this issue.

If you are interested in joining the Public Policy Committee or participating in any of the Committee's activities, please let Michele know at [msaintc@comcast.net](mailto:msaintc@comcast.net).

—Terry Leach

## **Healdsburg Branch Survey Results**

The Public Policy Team of our Healdsburg Branch would like to warmly thank all who completed the recent survey about public policy and advocacy. We will present the results at the June Installation Luncheon on June 6. Would you like to serve on the Public Policy Team and help implement Healdsburg's upcoming policy and advocacy program? The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Please contact **Michele St.Clair** [msaintc@comcast.net](mailto:msaintc@comcast.net) for more information.

## Member News

### New Member Potluck

On Tuesday, May 5 several new AAUW members met for a potluck brunch on the patio of **Terry Leach's** home. The event was just a small gathering for new members to get to know one another, to help facilitate their integration in our rapidly growing branch.



The brunch was the suggestion of **Gail Wright**, Membership Chair, following a discussion with **Terry Leach** about her first year experience at Healdsburg's AAUW Branch. Terry volunteered to kick off the first event with the hope that follow-up events will be organized by the new members themselves, with assistance by the Membership

Chair. The idea was to see whether new members might like to meet other new members from their "cohort" to help ease their way into a growing organization. New members **Kathy Mullen, Jean Norelli, Kim Alexander, and Terry Watson** arrived with Gail, with salads and muffins to complement a mushroom quiche. Conversations ranged from grown children visiting in the wine country to living in the country vs. living in town. The potluck was a success and enjoyed by everyone.

If you are a new member interested in getting to know other new members in a similarly small setting, contact the Membership Chair about hosting or joining a potluck to ease your way into what has now become the eighth largest AAUW branch in California.

—**Terry Leach**

**Final Reminder! JUNE 15, 2015 ...**  
**The deadline for renewing your membership for 2015-16**

### Last Wine-N-Dine of this Year a Success!

Our last Wine-N-Dine event for the 2014-2015 year took place on April 18 and was another successful evening based on what we heard from hosts and participants! There were 50 attendees and six hosts scheduled this time. Thank you to the hosts who were Bill and **Yvonne Hyatt**, Dan and **Barb Reid**, Don and **Heidi Blumenthal**, **Anna Darden**, and **Doris Golden**. Bob and **Sharyn Sarquis** were all set to host, having bought their entrée and coordinated the courses with their attendees, when at the last moment a family medical emergency caused them to turn their priorities to family first. They were great in immediately sending out apologetic emails to all attendees and as it turned out several of those set to attend arranged to go out to dinner in town together. What a flexible group! Sharyn and Bob plan to host again next year.

We had three Wine-N-Dine events this year: November 1, January 30, and this last one on April 18. They seemed to grow in popularity as members heard all the positive feedback from those who attended or hosted. So next year Liz and I have taken on the job of Wine-N-Dine co-chairs again as we enjoyed the job and worked well together. We had fun too! These dinners will start up again at some time after the 2015-2016 Kick-Off, when we plan our dates with the rest of the social committee. Look forward to the Wine-N-Dine announcements and to some great food and fun again!

—**Cher Frechette and Liz Loebel**



## A Letter from the Petaluma AAUW Branch

*Karen Johnson, President AAUW, Petaluma writes:* "Our branch in Petaluma recently co-sponsored a public forum on Measure A for the upcoming election. Both pro and con positions were presented and there were questions and answers from the audience. The event was videotaped and is now on our website at the Home page. I have been asked that I get the word out to other AAUW members in Sonoma County with possible eblasts to the branches as the ballots are already in the mail. I would appreciate it if you could follow up

with some notice to your members. I certainly found the forum very informative in a number of ways, especially in how our county receives funding for our road repairs."

**Winky Merrill adds:** "Petaluma branch taped it and put it up on their website. I think our members would find it interesting and educational in advance of the election." The link is below: <http://www.aauwpetaluma.org>

## A Letter in Regard to Our Recent Speakers Series

Many of us heard Sonoma County Department of Health Services Jen Lewis' great presentation of information on *A Portrait of Sonoma County* at the May Speaker Series. This report used many data sources, including 2010 Census data. One measure that Jen mentioned was a low percentage of Latino students reaching reading proficiency by third grade. After the presentation I checked in with Jeff Harding, HUSD Superintendent (full disclosure, my husband, Ted Crowell, is on the school board). He shared that much has changed since 2010, and students are doing much better thanks to very

targeted interventions. The district implemented an Accelerated English program (AE) in 2013 and English proficiency has shown great improvement; so the picture is much brighter. Attached is a link to a recent report on the program, which has been presented to the school board.

<http://tinyurl.com/l6xcveq>

Given our significant support of Healdsburg schools, I thought it important for us to know the current state of English learners in the district.

—Andrea Michelsen

## AAUW Healdsburg Facebook

Did you know that our chapter has a Facebook site? Visit the AAUW Healdsburg Facebook page to find reminders of upcoming activities, see photos of events, and information about the local and national initiatives. If you are currently on Facebook, just click on the friend icon and you're in. You can join Facebook on Facebook.com and then friend the AAUW Healdsburg site. Be sure to share items of interest with your friends to increase the number of people reached. Members are encouraged to take photos at any chapter event they attend. Email them to [lindaclark0606@gmail.com](mailto:lindaclark0606@gmail.com). The photos will then be posted on the website for everyone to enjoy. Your permission is required before any photo is labeled with member names. —Linda Clark

## A Thank You Letter from the Editor

This June issue of *The Grapevine* is my last as editor. I am grateful to all those who worked on it with me, especially proofreaders **Louise Lambert** and **Judy Edmonds**. **Diane Burnley** will be the new editor of *The Grapevine* starting in September. Don't forget the deadline: August 15!

—Deana Fusco

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.



## New Members



Are you into unique designer gowns and gorgeous models? Then **Robby Robinson** has the fashion show for you: Condom Couture! Now that I have your undivided attention, our new member has her own

small, independent PR consulting firm that specializes in fashion, beauty, retail, and style. She has volunteered her services for the Evening of Hope fashion show (sponsored by Project Inform, which provides quality and affordable healthcare for HIV positive people) ever since 1994, when her best friend died in her arms. And, you ask, what might you expect upon attending this gala event? "The best ever was a gown with a train; the entire ensemble was coated with 3500 condoms hand sprayed in gold paint. Quite glamorous, and it brought the audience to their feet!"

Since moving here a year ago, Robby's also contributed her talents by writing press releases and newsletters for the Raven, as well as for the Jewish Community Center of Sonoma County. "In high school, I specialized in talking to my seat mates during class and typing. Both are perfect for my profession!" she laughs. Other significant components of Robby's life: Chuck, (her husband of 40 years), Seymour (her golden retriever who is a PALS service dog), sports (her childhood goal was to be the first female NFL football coach), and travel (she's not happy unless there are a few boarding passes on her desk).

Although she still spends time at her other home in Burlingame, she's thrilled to be in our AAUW, and (as a self-proclaimed night owl), is looking forward to attending any events that occur after 1:00 p.m. She's also happiest when she's over-extended. She'd written on her application form: "Put me to work!" Hmmm. I suspect her line's going to be busy!

**Stan Salomon** Look! Right over there! It's a bird; it's a plane; no—it's SuperStan! This action hero, born in Lodi, then rocketing down through Stanford's Engineering Department (both on planet Earth), poses as mild-mannered Stan Salomon. He resided and operated as a Pacific Bell telephone man in the almost fictional city of Cupertino for 41 years.



One of our hero's first adventures included volunteering, along with his primary love interest, **Ceci Salomon**, as a docent at the Filoli Estate. He also began donating blood in 1952, and continues now by donating apheresis. "One pint helps save three lives!" Since moving to Windsor in 2006, he volunteers at BCP's Santa Rosa Center, and is often seen at high school blood drives.

And, as a member of Madrone Audubon Society, Stan helped out at the Santa Rosa Bird Rescue Center. Although he doesn't wear tights and a cape, he does support those who do dress in costumes by volunteering at the Raven, and he's also an active member of the Windsor Arts Council, exhibiting his award-winning photography at local shows. His house was recently featured in the Daily Acts of Petaluma as a garden conservation prototype for lawn removal. He routinely donates much of the produce raised on his 1200 square feet to the Windsor Service Alliance. Along with this interest in thinking green and safeguarding our planet, Stan serves as his HOA's chairperson of the Lakewood Hills Grounds Committee. No question, this leading man uses his abilities for the benefit of humanity!

His next adventure? He and Ceci have signed up to co-chair the AAUW 2015 Annual Picnic. So when you see him flying by, on his way to support Truth, Justice, and the American Way, do salute our SuperStan!

—Sue Finan

**The Grapevine** is published online each month, except in July and August. 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](mailto:deana.fusco@sbcglobal.net). Assistant Editor is Diane Burnley.