

MAY SPEAKER SERIES



Robots at the Junior High!

Speaker: Patricia Murphy
Junior High Science Teacher

May 10, 2016

5:00 PM Social Gathering

5:30 PM Brief Business Meeting

5:45 PM Speaker

Healdsburg High School Library

1024 Prince Avenue, Healdsburg

Our **Healdsburg AAUW** chapter gave 40 *Lego Mindstorms* robots to Healdsburg Junior High the beginning of this school year. *Lego Mindstorms* are a “kit” of both software and hardware enabling students to design and build robots for many different uses. They’ve been enthusiastically integrated into the junior high’s science curriculum. Patricia Murphy, the dynamic new Junior High science and robotics teacher, will talk to us about the robot learning process and will bring a couple of students with her. She also supervises a class of eighth graders who are assembling an electric car which was a *Switch Vehicle Grant* from Sonoma Clean Power. We hope she’ll talk to us about that, too.

Ms. Murphy studied psychology and child development at the University of California, Santa Cruz before moving to Los Angeles where she earned her Masters in Teaching Secondary Science at the University of Southern California. She just moved back to her hometown of Santa Rosa with her husband Bryan Murphy, her boxer puppy, and her two turtles.

— Heidi Blumenthal



OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REPORT FROM AAUW-CA STATE CONVENTION

Nancy Haiston, Michele St. Clair and I recently represented our branch at the **AAUW California** annual convention held this year in San Mateo. We came away energized with new ideas and nuggets of information of interest to and applicable to our branch activities. Although the convention is generally attended by officers and board members of the state branches, it is open to all **AAUW** members. If you ever want training on how to become a better leader of any group with which you are involved, this is the meeting for you. There are always many sessions on leadership training.

We saw the award winning documentary “The Hunting Ground” about sexual assault on America’s college campuses and how the reported cases have been handled. This was followed by a facilitated discussion. The statistics on the numbers of women assaulted and the lack of action taken against the perpetrators were astounding. Everyone should see this film.

We heard the three amazing high school young women finalists of this year’s Speech Trek competition vie for first, second, and third place with five minute speeches on “Gender Bias and Inequality.” It would really be great if our branch could launch a Speech Trek tournament for high school girls in our community. This year there were 14 first place branch winners, who competed against each other with the top three presenting their talks at the convention. **AAUW-CA** provides the topic and all the info and training needed to set up the branch program. We just need some volunteers who would be interested in doing this. ANYONE OUT THERE? Call or email me.

Did you know that **Eleanor Roosevelt**

- joined **AAUW** in 1929
- attended branch meetings throughout the U.S.
- spoke at the **AAUW** national convention in 1959?

See <http://www.aauw.org/2014/10/31/eleanor-and-aauw>.

Thank you for all the ways in which each and every one of you is supporting the Homes Tour. I hope to see many of you there and at the After Party in the Museum’s garden.

—Ronnie Devitt



THE 26TH HEALDSBURG HOMES TOUR

is almost here

May 1, 2016 10:00-4:00

The big day is almost here. We enjoyed working with our team on the tour and hope that those of you working at the tour will have a great time as well. Most of you will have time to tour all the homes. Don't forget to buy a ticket and pick up your admission bracelet at the Museum check-in.

Please invite friends, family, and neighbors to the tour.

Raffle tickets for the Farmhouse Inn "Staycation" will be sold only on the day of the tour at the Museum. There will only be 250 tickets sold at \$20 each, so your chances of winning are great!

AAUW members and their spouses or partners are invited to celebrate the end of the tour at the Museum. Bella Vineyards and Wine Caves, our Premium Wine Sponsor, will be pouring their wines. Please make sure you RSVP to the after party organizers so that the volunteers running the party can plan for the right number of guests. The raffle drawing will take place at the end of the party. The winner need not be present to win.

Thank you to our wonderful team for all of the enthusiasm, time, and energy you expended in making the Tour a reality.

Thank you all for volunteering the day of the Tour!

— Cecile Peters and Kim Alexander, Co-chairs

May Cultural Event



Now Open to Partners and Friends

FORT ROSS TOUR

Friday, May 13, 2016

9:45 AM– 4:30 PM

\$25 includes Guided Tour and Lunch

Contact Jean Norelli, norelli@sonic.net to reserve space for a picnic lunch overlooking the beautiful Pacific Ocean scenery, and a fascinating tour of the grounds and original orchard.

— Jean Norelli

PUBLIC POLICY

EQUAL PAY DAY CELEBRATION BIG SUCCESS



On Tuesday, April 12, the Healdsburg Chapter of AAUW celebrated Equal Pay Day by selling cookies during lunchtime at Big John's in Healdsburg and Starbucks in Windsor. To highlight the fact that women still get paid only 79 cents for every dollar paid to men in equivalent jobs, the Healdsburg AAUW sold cookies reflecting this disparity. Men who paid a dollar got 79% of the cookie, while women got 100% of the cookie for the same price. In this way, men were able to have a tiny taste of what it feels like to get 21 percent less in salary. The cookies were baked and donated for the event by Costeaux French Bakery.

The chapter sold almost 300 cookies! The unsold cookies were given to local businesses to provoke conversations in the workplace about equal pay for women.

In addition to the cookie sale, the AAUW successfully lobbied the cities of Windsor, Healdsburg and Cloverdale to adopt proclamations promoting principles of equal pay for women. All three of our local newspapers covered the AAUW's Equal Pay Day celebrations. Congratulations to the Public Policy Committee for a successful and provocative event.



— Hillary Kambour



APRIL SPEAKER SERIES

If you were fortunate to attend the April 5 **Healdsburg AAUW** talk and tour by Chris Vanden Heuvel, Superintendent of Healdsburg Unified School District, you would surely be hopeful about our public education system. You might even be wishing you could go back to high school (without the social scene and the acne) to take advantage of the courses and programs. Superintendent Vanden Heuvel presented an overview of how HUSD gives students the tools to meet their futures head-on, and also led a tour of the updated facilities.

- A video of 4th graders presenting a project on environmental questions as an example of how project-based learning incorporates a variety of skills in support of a learning objective. Students (4th graders, remember) researched, scripted, taped, performed, and edited their project.
- Notes on the very positive impact that the Accelerated English program is having on the success of non-native English speakers. A younger starting age and the incorporation of grammar into all levels is resulting in strong language skills.
- An illustration of how the updated graduation requirements prepare students for both academic and life skills by aligning academic skills. Students can follow Math curriculum in preparation for advanced study as well as for life skills in personal financial management.
- Community service and internship programs are now integrated into the curriculum. Important learning beyond the classrooms takes place in the service and internships interactions in the community.
- Incorporation of preparation for required college admission testing. ACT and SAT preparation, typically offered by commercial vendors, is now being offered through the curriculum, giving more students access to these strategies.

Just as impressive was the walking tour of the new facilities. Portable classrooms are being replaced with state-of-the-art learning centers that support hands-on learning in all fields. The culinary class works in a professional kitchen in conjunction with the ag department to create farm-to-fork menus. In the Digital Media center students learn skills for careers in communication and can earn a certificate in video editing through *Final Cut Pro*. Art and other classrooms have garage door type walls that extend the classroom to community use space and collaboration. The programs, the staff, and the facilities combine to create an exciting, inspiring, and innovative place to learn.

It was especially exciting to hear Mr. V (as the students call him) mention all the programs that have either originated with our **AAUW**, or have sprung from an existing program we offer: everything from *Reading Rocks* to *FUTURE PREP: Career Choices & Life Skills* to *GEMS* have helped raise the general knowledge level. In the case of *Career Choices*, former district superintendent Jeff Harding told us this particular program helped spur the entire direction of district academics to emphasize life, working choices, and skills post high school. And the *Internship Program*, in which every Junior now participates, was another offshoot.

Good work Ladies and Gentlemen!

— Claire O'Neill

Remember the old "Black Box" at HHS? That decrepit space has been updated, and is now a state-of-the-art culinary center. The side with windows (shown), can roll up garage-style, and guests can enjoy the meals prepared by students al fresco.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Healdsburg AAUW

GEMS go to Google



On March 28 seven girls from Healdsburg and Windsor schools interested in math and science boarded a van for a trip to the Google campus in Mountain View. On arriving at the company they were met by Dave Redell, who coordinated the day at the company. After settling the group in the conference room Dave gave a slide presentation that discussed the many facets of Google, the multitude of projects that are being done currently, and the role that women have played in the founding of the computer technology field in general, and the efforts by Google to increase diversity in the field of software engineering.

Two women engineers, one software and one hardware, joined the discussion and talked about the various projects that they were working on. The hardware engineer discussed her work in the power optimization of small electronics, specifically, increasing the time that a mobile phone can hold a charge. The software engineer discussed her responsibility on the team working on Google apps, writing the software code for the visual display that the end user sees. Both women were enthusiastic about the contributions they are making and how satisfying their jobs are. They also gave students some information about how they came to choose engineering, their college choices and experience, their employment history, and how they came to Google. They also discussed how the level of diversity of a team at Google has shown a direct correlation to the level of success of the product in the market place.

The students were then asked to participate with the women engineers in a little problem solving by naming a problem they would want to solve. The problems ranged from making teachers better communicators to solving global warming. As each problem was presented by a student, the engineers gave ideas about how computer technology could help address the problems.

After the group session the students had lunch in the famous Google Café where all employees eat free (just one of 30 on site!). After lunch another woman software engineer took them on a tour of the visitor center and discussed the history of the company. The visitor center included a Google nap chair, a timeline of the company, examples of Google computer technology and *Google Earth Explore Your World* experience in which a student could enter a place and the surrounding screens would put them there (for example, a museum in France or a plaza in Spain).

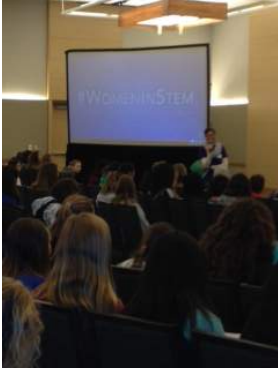


All three women engineers agreed to give their emails to the students so that they could contact them for advice in the future.

— Nancy Renkiewicz



EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS



The *Expanding Your Horizons* workshop was held Saturday, April 2, 2016 at Sonoma State. **Healdsburg AAUW** supports this STEM Saturday workshop financially and with volunteers on the day of the event. Our members **Victoria Toboni, Sherry Garner, Georgia Helthall, and Pat Bertapelle** helped register over 200 students.

— Pat Bertapelle



FORUM

The Royal Oui

Both **AAUW members** and the community have been enjoying Bruce Elliot's **Spring Forum** talks on the "Great Houses of Europe." Here Dr. Elliot (dressed as Louis XIV), and **AAUW member Claire O'Neill** celebrate the beautiful weather, along with their rich brocade apparel.

— Judy Edmonds



SOCIAL and BUSINESS EVENTS

April 9th Wine-N-Dine Great Fun!



Our last Wine-N-Dine event of the season took place on April 9 and all hosts reported good groups and fun times. New members were happy to meet existing **AAUW** members and get to know them better. Four hosts: **Ann Mahoney** and Steve Cotler, **Charlene** and Phil **Luks**, **Ronnie** and Tom **Devitt**, and **Tami Weiner-Stout** and Wayne Stout entertained tables of 8 or 10 people. Many thanks to them for hosting! Two dinner parties had a theme, adding a fun dimension to the party. At the Mahoney/Cotler dinner, a theme of Chinese food was chosen

and everyone had a fun time cooking in woks at Ann and Steve's house or just finishing up their recipes there. The Luks chose to have a hat theme, with attendees bringing/wearing a hat that represented a hobby or interest, with fun conversation about the hats.



Wine-N-Dine will start up again in the fall. I (**Cher**) will be stepping away as co-chair with **Liz** as I will be taking on this year's summer picnic. Liz and I had fun times putting together these dinners, coming up with all the combinations of people at each host house, often having a martini afterwards! **Liz** will continue on this next year and train **Debbie Potmesil** as her co-chair.

Liz and I have been thinking about Wine-N-Dine and how it should proceed in the fall. Should there be one less or one more event each year (we have been having three), how to get more people to attend who have never attended, etc. The dinners are usually such a fun experience that once people attend one, they keep on attending, often saying it is their favorite social event. But, there are many who have never attended and gotten the Wine-N-Dine fever. If you any ideas on this, we would love to hear them. Please email either **Liz** (lizloebel@gmail.com) or **Cher** (cherylfrechette@yahoo.com) with your ideas.

— **Cher Frechette and Liz Loebel**

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 or 707-837-8001 by May 31. Think of something to remind you to wear your name tag.

— **Janice Sexton**

OUR MEMBERSHIP

Remember to **RENEW** your AAUW Membership

If you haven't already done so, May is a good month to renew your membership for 2016-17!

This is where your \$94 dues are spent:

- \$49 goes to our **national** organization and contributes to work in public policy, legal defense, and administrative expenses, including the national publication *AAUW Outlook*.
- \$20 goes to our **state** organization which contributes to Tech Trek, AAUW Funds, branch support, communications, leadership development, public policy, and the *California Perspective* newsletter.
- \$25 goes to our **Healdsburg** branch for administrative expenses, *The Grapevine* newsletter, and for renting venues needed to accommodate our growing membership for social events. We now have 200 members.

— Deana Fusco

NEW MEMBERS

Linda Haskell	lindakhaskell@gmail.com
Hillary Kambour	hillsmike@att.net
Jane Martin	janescookies@gmail.com
Barbara Micallef	vintage36@gmail.com

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 member please contact Pat Bertapelle, pat@vbn.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 or 707-433-5646.

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