



# The Grapevine

Healdsburg Branch

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

September 2015 [www.healdsburgaauw.com](http://www.healdsburgaauw.com) Vol.31 No.1



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Kick-Off Meeting

**Thursday, September 17, 2015  
5 to 7 PM  
Healdsburg Country Gardens  
670 Bailhache Avenue  
Healdsburg**

It is time for our annual kickoff for the AAUW year and celebration of 40 years in Healdsburg. Charter members and past presidents will be honored guests as we celebrate our story and achievements.

If your last name begins with A through L please bring an appetizer. If it begins with M through Z please bring a bottle of wine. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. No spouses/partners are included in this particular social event. Remember to wear your nametags.

RSVP to Janice Sexton, [janicesexton46@gmail.com](mailto:janicesexton46@gmail.com) or (707) 837-8001 by September 11, 2015.

**Directions from Healdsburg Plaza (HWY 101 driving south) during Memorial Beach Bridge Closure:** From Healdsburg Plaza, drive south on Healdsburg Ave-get in the right lane. Go on 101 south to Santa Rosa (across from McDonalds). Exit on #502 Old Redwood Hwy (this is the next exit). Go left on Healdsburg Ave-drive ½ mile. **IGNORE BRIDGE CLOSED SIGNS--BAILHACHE IS BEFORE THE BRIDGE.** Turn right on Bailhache Ave & drive ½ mile to 670 Bailhache on the right. Enter driveway and follow signs to the parking lot.

**Directions from HWY 101 driving north from Windsor/Santa Rosa during Memorial Beach Bridge closure:** Exit on #502 Healdsburg Ave (this is first exit for Healdsburg). Go right on Healdsburg Ave-drive ½ mile. **IGNORE BRIDGE CLOSED SIGNS—BAILHACHE IS BEFORE THE BRIDGE.** Turn right on Bailhache Ave & drive ½ mile to 670 Bailhache on the right. Enter driveway and follow signs to the parking lot.

—Janice Sexton



## President's Message

Welcome to the new AAUW 2015-2016 Year!

The lovely picnic at Lake Sonoma launched our social activities for the year. Thank you **Stan and CiCi Salomon, Sue and Jim Finan, Ann Mahoney,** and Steve Cotler for all of your work. There will be many more social events including luncheons, happy hours, Wine and Dine dinners, a holiday party and most importantly the upcoming Kick-Off/40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

At the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party we will be welcoming new members, honoring the charter members and past presidents of the Branch, and having fun. On page 7 are the names of charter members or past presidents we have not been able to locate. Let **Jean Short**, the first president, or me know if you know of their whereabouts. And be sure to come to this very special celebration!

AAUW is not just about our social activities. We have an important mission to help fulfill. We do this by community service and providing scholarships for women and girls and grants for local educational programs.

Not so long ago we used to say that the Healdsburg Homes Tour was our only fundraiser. Then we were able to support Tech Trek separately from generous donors. Now we also have profits from the Forum

and our 501 (c) (3) corporation, Healdsburg AAUW Fund, for tax deductible donations. We will also be reintroducing eScrip as another source of funds. The impressive list of what our Branch has funded in the last year appears on page 5 of this newsletter. We can all take great pride in the scholarships for women and girls and the grants we have been able to make.

We hope that many of you will attend the upcoming Forum Series and invite family, friends, and neighbors. It is educational, entertaining, and a source of funding. Check out our interest groups for more mind challenges with Great Decisions, book clubs, bridge, and Scrabble. The hiking group keeps your body in shape – so I am told.

This is going to be a fabulous year for the Branch. If you want to volunteer, help out on a committee, or join an interest group look at the 2015-2016 Leadership Team List on pages 6 and 7 to see who to contact. We still need someone to be in charge of refreshments at the monthly Member Meetings/Speakers series. Everything there is to know about Healdsburg AAUW and its activities is also on our website.

[www.healdsburgauw.com](http://www.healdsburgauw.com)

—Ronnie Devitt



26<sup>th</sup> Annual Healdsburg Homes Tour  
Sunday, May 1, 2016

## AAUW FORUM

After a wildly successful inaugural season earlier this year—Chris O’Sullivan’s presentation of *California: A History*—in October we will launch the Fall 2015 season of our Forum with two courses. All indications are that they will be just as enlightening and entertaining as *California* was. Chris returns with Part One of an account of the Roosevelt family. (Part Two will kick off the Winter 2016 season.) In addition, Kayleen Asbo—already known to many who have taken one of her OLLI classes—will present a course on key Romantic composers, combining lecture with performance at a grand piano. Forum will once again be taking place at the Raven Theater Healdsburg. Here is the schedule:

THE ROOSEVELTS: THE SAGA OF A FAMILY WHO CHANGED AMERICA, PART ONE (1860 - 1920)

Chris O’Sullivan, PhD, Presenter

Tuesdays, 10 – 11:30 AM, October 6 – November 10

THE PASSION AND JOY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC: THE GREAT ROMANTICS

Kayleen Asbo, PhD, Presenter-Performer

Thursdays, 10 – 11:30 AM, October 8 – November 12

Forum has its own home page on our website and you are urged to visit it to learn more about the courses and to take a look at the introductory videos Chris and Kayleen have created for us. Hopefully AAUW members will turn out in full force to take advantage of these offerings, and to support our educational activities and scholarship programs. Registration begins 9/1/2015. Enrollment is \$90 for each six-week course, and is nonrefundable and nontransferable. A link to registration forms is on the Forum home page. Your payment by check rather than credit card (which carries costly fees) will save dollars that can be applied to efforts like the donation we were able to make to the 4Cs child development center this Spring, enabling it to re-open quickly after building safety issues had forced it to close. We can all take pride in the many ways we are working to have a positive effect on our community.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the crucial role that Bob Santos (husband of member Julia Santos) has played in first making Forum a reality and now moving it forward. Without Bob’s wisdom and long experience in developing life-long learning programs and his contacts with top-level presenters like Chris and Kayleen, Forum would not have happened. If you have an opportunity, please thank him for his support.

—Katherine Lacey

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Being a part of AAUW has excellent benefits:

- We are able to be part of an organization that has been helping women and girls, and supporting education since 1881.
- We play a significant role in the community.
- Our lives are enriched through discussions, interest groups, and friends.
- We get to enjoy many parties and outings.
- And my particular favorite reason for being part of this group is that we provide hands-on help to local schools in a variety of ways.

In the last few years our wonderful group of women keeps growing, and along with that, so do our opportunities to help various community service programs.

For new members, and seasoned members who would like to brush up, here is a list of programs that our branch runs:

### Career Choices

This program runs both at Healdsburg HS and Cloverdale HS. At both schools we bring in panelists to talk about various professions the students may be interested in, with guidance on how to reach their goals. We've gotten raves from both teachers, students, and the school board.

This past year we added one more feature at Healdsburg HS in addition to the panels. We also began working with teachers to come into their classrooms to help with a specific educational challenge.

### Reading Rocks

Our volunteers help first graders one-on-one with their reading. Last year we had more members who wanted to volunteer than we had openings, so we added a second school. Now, in addition to Healdsburg Elementary, we also work with young girls and boys at West Side School.

### GEMS

This stands for Girls in Engineering, Math and Sciences. For several years we have been sending 13-year old girls to a technology camp at Stanford called Tech Trek. As we saw the such great results of this program we began a new program to mentor those girls from 8<sup>th</sup> grade through high school who are interested in STEM studies.

### Expanding Your Horizon

EYH is a one-day program held in the spring. Although this is not an AAUW program we help maintain it through financial and practical support.

If any of these programs sound interesting to you and you'd like to volunteer or find out more about it, please contact **Judy Edmunds**: [jedmonds@sonic.net](mailto:jedmonds@sonic.net) —Judy Edmunds

# Federal Legislative Priorities for Women and Families in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

AAUW advocates for federal policies that will help all women and families achieve economic security, and for a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity. Economic security policies include legislation to close the gender pay gap and to offer families greater work-life balance and health care security. AAUW also advocates for policies that help close the achievement gap in education and provide safe climates for all students. You can download a pdf document— [http://www.aauw.org/resource/priorities-for-women-in-114<sup>th</sup>](http://www.aauw.org/resource/priorities-for-women-in-114th)

—Michelle St. Clair

## What We Funded in 2014-2015

**Thanks to the generosity of donors, supporters of the Healdsburg Homes Tour, and attendees of the AAUW Forum, Healdsburg AAUW in 2014-2015 funded these grants and scholarships.**

- \$16,000 for 4 scholarships to re-entry women graduating from Santa Rosa Junior College to continue their education
- \$14,700 to Healdsburg Education Foundation (HEF) for iPads for the Transitional Kindergarten and the Mike Hauser Algebra Academy
- \$12,000 for scholarships to three girls from Healdsburg High School and one girl from Cloverdale High
- \$11,665 to Community Child Care Council Center (4C's) for the Healdsburg Pre-School
- \$7,650 sent 9 girls to Tech Trek camp at Stanford University
- \$3000 to Alliance Medical Center for the Safe Dates pilot program
- \$3000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Sonoma County to send 3 girls to local summer camps
- \$2500 to Public School Success Team (PSST)
- \$2000 to national AAUW (Educational) Funds
- \$500 to Expanding Your Horizons (EYH)
- \$500 to Healdsburg Science Fair

## SAVE THE DATE: Speaker Series

October 6, 2015

5:00 PM, Healdsburg High School Library

***The River Keeper, Don McEnhill***

## 2015-2016 Leadership Team

(Bold =Board Member)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
<b>President</b>	<b>Ronnie Devitt</b>	<b>Fund Raising</b>	<b>Janet Hoehn</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Sue Campbell</b>	Forum	Kay Kohler
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Nancy Haiston</b>	Publicity	Katherine Lacy
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Violet Nelson</b>	Tech Trek Funding	Barbara Epstein
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Winky Merrill</b>	eScrip	Kay Mattei
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Linda Clark</b>	Homes Tour	
Constant Contact	Liz Loebel	Chair	Cecile Peters
Corresponding Sec.	Sheila Kneass	Co-Chair	Kim Alexander
Newsletter	Diane Burnley	Communication	Linda Clark
MarCom Consultant	Carol Noack	Docents	Mary Jane Corson
Publicity	Neita Comings	Homes Selection	Yvonne Schell
Social Media	Scarlett Wood	Mailing	Shally Schultz
Website Manager	Lisa Meisner	MarCom	Carol Noack
		Photography	Phil Wright
<b>Community Services</b>	<b>Judy Edmonds</b>	Printing	Nancy Renkiewicz
Career Choices <small>Healdsburg</small>	Judy Edmonds	Print Distribution	Denny Martin
Career Choices <small>Cloverdale</small>	Diane Bartleson	Publicity	Sue Finan
Expanding Horizons	Pat Bertapelle	Refreshments	Pat Swaney
GEMS	Nancy Renkiewicz	Signs	Maureen Keefe
GEMS Co-chair	Julie Conklin	Sponser/Advertisers	Andrea Wolcott
Reading Rocks, HES	Shally Schultz	Tickets	Shally Schultz
West Side School	Denny Martin	Volunteers	Charlene Luks

**2015-2016 Leadership Team, continued**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
<b>Grants &amp; Scholarships</b>	<b>Andi Michelsen</b>	<b>Social Activities</b>	<b>Lynda Guthrie</b>
AAUW Funds	Terry Leach	Cultural Events	Ann Mahoney
HEF	Andi Michelsen	Happy Hours &HHT Party	Jean Norelli
Pre-school	Charlene Luks		Carol Hazlett
	Barbara Epstein		Neita Comings
SRJC	Joyce Scramaglia	Holiday Party	Barbara Reid
Tech Trek selection	Bev Liberman	Picnic	
		Kick-Off & Installation	Janice Sexton
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Deana Fusco</b>	Lunch Bunch	Mickey Sarquis
Membership Assistant	Patty McHugh		Sharyn Sarquis
Buddies	Pat Bertapelle	Wine & Dine	Cher Frechette
New Member Photographer	Pat Bertapelle		Liz Loebel
New Member Profiles	Sue Finan		
New Member Profiles co-chair			
	Barbara Gruber		
<b>National Issues &amp; Publicity Chair</b>			
	<b>Michelle St. Clair</b>		
<b>Speaker Series</b>	<b>Heidi Blumenthal</b>		
	Ann Allan		
Hospitality			

Do you know where one of these women can be found?

- SYLVIA BENSON      SUSAN SIMON**
- FRANCESS CLARK      JULIE WHITE**
- VIRGINIA MCLAREN      PATRICIA WILSON**
- CHRISTINE NERVO**

We would like to invite them to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party.

Contact [janicesexton46@gmail.com](mailto:janicesexton46@gmail.com)  
or, 707-837-8001

## Interest Groups

### **Book Groups**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Evening      Mary Ann Gervais  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Afternoon      Barbara Reid  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Afternoon      Janet Hoehn  
Last Thursday Afternoon      Mary Ann Van Alyea

### **Bridge**

Tuesdays Play & Discuss      Yvonne Hyatt  
Wednesdays Play & Discuss  
   Carol Ann Hathaway  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Evening Couples      Ronnie Devitt  
Ladies Duplicate & Lunch      Candy Danhausen

### **Great Decisions**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday                      Nancy Haiston

### **Scrabble**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday                      Terry Leach

## **Calling All Scrabble Players!**

If you like to play Scrabble and visit with your AAUW Friends, consider playing a friendly game on the first Thursday of every month at 12:45 pm at the Bean Affair. Several of us have been meeting informally for the last year and we are delighted that Scrabble is now an official AAUW activity.

This is for fun! No pressure at all---unless you'd like a more competitive game, with the winner after 10 games, being treated to lunch as the 'Scrabble Queen'. Please let me know this so this particular group gets time to play together.

If you would like to meet me ahead of time to get a 'Scrabble' refresher, I'm happy to do this, too. We will provide a two-letter 'cheat sheet' to bring everyone up to speed.

All you need to do is email me at least a week before, so we have enough boards. If you missed the email cut-off, still email me because we can probably accommodate you. Please give an idea of your ability level and I'll work on matching you with other players at your level. If you have a rotating board that you'd be willing to bring to our sessions, please let me know this, as well.

**Where:** Bean Affair, the back room

**When:** First Thursday of the month at 12:45 (usually 1.5-2 hours). Our next meeting is Thursday, September 3.

**Contact info:** Email Terry at [tjleach7@hotmail.com](mailto:tjleach7@hotmail.com) with "Scrabble" in the subject line. Include ability level, your cell phone, and if you have a board to share. If you need to reach me directly, my cell is 925-998-6920.

—Terry Leach



## MEMBER NEWS

A card and note was sent to **Ellen Harris** in memory of her husband Ellis Harris who passed away recently. —Sheila Kneass

### Updated Email Addresses/Phones

**Linda Clark** Cell: 707-695-9170

**Barbara Covello** Cell: 707-548-1749

## NEW MEMBERS

**Laura Kimbro** [ltkimbro@icloud.com](mailto:ltkimbro@icloud.com)

**Barbara Lannin** [bjlannin@gmail.com](mailto:bjlannin@gmail.com)

**Astrid Ortega** [OASTRID45@gmail.com](mailto:OASTRID45@gmail.com)

—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

### Kathryn Hecht



Imagine this: moving from New York City to Cloverdale! That's exactly what Kathryn did and she is very happy to be here! She has a degree in Fine Arts with a major in Acting. She and her husband, both actors met in New York eighteen years ago. In 2013, they moved to Petaluma and she worked in San Francisco. She went from acting to pitching books for financial institutions to working in Public Education. She left her San Francisco job in September 2014, moved from Petaluma to Cloverdale and founded the Alexander Valley Film Society, which is a non-profit. [www.avfilmsociety.org](http://www.avfilmsociety.org)

Her husband, Ryan, is busy managing the Clover Movie theater full time. With Kathryn as Founder and Executive Director of the AV Film Society, the organization is off to a high profile start. Their mission is to enrich the community through film, cultivate new fans of film and using cinema for educational and cultural enrichment programs. A monthly screening series for adults is held at the Raven Film Center and the Clover Theater. They are having their first Film Festival October 22 – 25<sup>th</sup>, which includes Healdsburg, Cloverdale, and Geyserville. A festive Opening Night is at Trentadue winery and the Closing Night Awards Ceremony is a Coppola Winery. Take a look at the website at [avfilmsociety.org](http://avfilmsociety.org) to learn more about the upcoming Film Festival. This Festival = Fun!

Kathryn is a bundle of energy and enthusiasm about living in the area, directing the AV Film Society and participating in AAUW.

—Barbara Gruber



## Laura Kimbro

Aren't farmers' markets great?  
You can get oranges, lemons,  
cabbages, caterpillar fungus\*  
.In Tibet, that is! Which is

where Laura Kimbro spent three months last summer, helping to set up a maternity labor & delivery unit. As an OB/GYN, Laura taught what is needed and when it's needed for patients. And it's certainly needed: The Tibetan infant mortality rate is the highest in the world.

Interesting how she started: After graduating high school, Laura joined the army, and became a photojournalist. She was sent to Europe, and worked in the preventive medicine unit, which then led to getting her medical training.

Because of her experiences, she believes in combining Western and Eastern medicine, and as a naturopathic physician, focuses on the lifestyles of her patients. Some of her clients from her practice in Phoenix had been with her from their first baby's delivery to post menopause pleasures, and Dr. Laura loved having those female relationships. That's why she joined AAUW. Just recently retired, she wants to meet educated women here who do things for women and children.

Her hobbies include photography and gardening. She enjoyed Dr. O'Sullivan's 2<sup>nd</sup> course on California history, and looks forward to taking his Roosevelt class. (BTW: she is soon to be certified as a sexual counselor for the Association of Sex Education and Therapists. How about a Forum on that?) —**Sue Finan**

\*The caterpillar fungus, or yartsa gunbu, is known as the Viagra of the Himalayas. It's very popular with the Chinese, and sells for \$5000/lb.!

## Claire O'Neill



Claire moved from Palo Alto to Healdsburg last May after visiting here many times. She's temporarily settled into a rental in town until she figures out exactly where in Healdsburg she wants to live. Claire is happy to be here to stay, and is busy meeting new people, as well as getting to better know Healdsburg. Her family is nearby with a cousin in Santa Rosa, two sisters in the Bay Area, and two sons in Southern California.

Last August Claire retired from her position at San Jose State University as Director of International Programs. This position involved frequent travel to Great Britain, Europe, and Southeast Asia. She attended global conferences where she frequently spoke to publicize San Jose State University and its student exchange programs. She vetted universities and established partnerships for student exchange programs. Claire loved her work and is surprised that she doesn't miss it.

She is energized and enthusiastic about exploring her "new" town of Healdsburg, meeting people and becoming a part of the community. Local history is of great interest to Claire. She has volunteered to do some research on Oakmond Cemetery for the Healdsburg History Museum and Historical Society. The project has not yet started, but she is looking forward to it. She wonders if other AAUW members are involved in this.

Claire is ready to jump into groups and activities with Healdsburg AAUW. For starters, even though she's never been in a book club, she's interested in joining one, she wants to put on her hiking shoes for some hikes, and participate in groups and activities related to education. Welcome to Claire! —**Barbara Gruber**

## Astrid Ortega

Astrid is a real trooper. After graduating from R.I. Nursing School, she wanted to escape the tiny state of Rhode Island. (R.I. is smaller in area than Sonoma County.) San Francisco looked to be very exciting in the 1960s, so she joined the Army Nurse Corps in hopes of being stationed at the Presidio.



She loved the time spent at the Presidio, however she didn't love the following year in Vietnam! "We took care of the wounded GI's, POW's, Viet Cong, women, kids, prostitutes--- battles, bombs, Napalm...It was a crazy and grisly time, and we were all just 21 years old!"

After leaving Vietnam's horror, she decompressed for 8 months in Yucatan, Mexico, then returned to California.

Although she left Vietnam, Vietnam never really left her. Astrid writes for the Sonoma County Vietnam Vet's Association newsletter, and serves on its board of directors as well as being active in CalVet women. "The environment has changed since I served; today 20% of the U.S. armed forces are women."

After DOMA was declared unconstitutional two years ago, she was proud to have been the first in line to apply for Social Security and Veteran's benefits in Sonoma County with her partner, Gordy.

Having just retired after 21 years as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Kaiser, Astrid volunteers for United Way's HOPE Reading program in Cloverdale. She's interested in joining our "Career Choices" program, and would strongly encourage our young people to become nurse practitioners.

We salute our new member, Astrid!

—Sue Finan

The *Grapevine* is published online each month, except in 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)

