



The Grapevine
Healdsburg Branch
Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, research
December, 2016 <http://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net> Vol. 32 No. 4

SPEAKER SERIES

Our November 1, 2016 Meeting Who Would Have Thought . . .

Who would have thought that a meeting on homelessness could be so interesting? Attendees of the November 1st Speaker Series meeting were surprised to hear of the number (approximately 100) of homeless in our community who are living just out-of-sight, AND that most are/were originally from Healdsburg.

Colleen Carmichael, Executive Director North Sonoma County Services (NSCS), spoke with conviction regarding the mission and purpose of this newly established 501(c)3 organization. The Transitional Housing Program works by providing a place to live in a drug free sober living space to vetted participants for a period of time, while working with them teaching skills in money management, job commitment and sober living. Other programs at NSCS work directly with homeless clients to assist one-on-one in a variety of ways at the level each client is able to be reached.

Ways we can help — As always, financial contributions are needed and gratefully accepted. Other needs of the homeless include: Tents, sleeping bags, tarps, duct tape, flashlights, batteries, garbage bags, water, first aid kits, sun screen, hats with visors, lanyard ID cases, bug spray, Chapstick, five-watt solar panel (for charging batteries and phones), compact tool kits, wet wipes, duffle bags, backpacks, suitcase with wheels, bikes, foldable camping chairs, Depends briefs and portable radios. Donated items can be dropped off at the NSCS office, or call if you need items picked up by them.

North Sonoma County Services: 443 Hudson Street, Healdsburg CA Phone: 707-433-6161

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR FUTURE SPEAKER SERIES MEETINGS:

February 7, 2017 — Dr. Rachel Mayorga, Gerontologist
March 7, 2017 — Our AAUW CA State Lobbyist, Shannon Smith-Crowley

LOOK FOR THE SPEAKER SERIES' QUESTIONNAIRE IN JANUARY

In January you will be emailed a questionnaire regarding our Speaker Series. Many of you know that this monthly meeting begins with a business meeting and follows with a speaker. Our monthly requirement of a business meeting no longer applies. We ask you to think about what you would like to see in our future (2017-18) regarding the continuance of this program.

—Sandy Beddow and Violet Nelson



OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Glass Ceiling...

Well, we didn't break the glass ceiling this year, but Hillary Clinton came closer than Geraldine Ferraro did as the VP candidate in 1984. I am optimistic that the majority of our members will live to see a woman in the White House.

We have to consider women's achievements since getting the right to vote 96 years ago then focus on maintaining those gains, and moving forward to true gender equality. We can each participate by increasing our involvement in the public policy and advocacy of **AAUW**. **AAUW** has been here for us since 1881 when the founders, Marion Talbot and Ellen Richards, met with 15 other women college graduates representing 8 colleges to discuss the needs of college-educated women. They formed the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (ACA) which became AAUW in the 1920s.

Check out the timeline at www.history.aauw.org. **AAUW's** first research report, "Health Statistics of Women College Graduates" published in 1885 sought to disprove the notion that education would cause infertility. The timeline moves on to highlight work on discrimination in academia in the 1930s, pay equity in the 1940s, and the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1960s. The bottom line of the history lesson is that we have come a long way but have a long way to go, if not for ourselves, then for our daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters.

Our branch "puts a wrap on" 2016 with our holiday party on Sunday, December 4th. I hope to see you there with friends, spouses, partners, etc. We have a tradition of collecting and bringing school supplies to the party. Look for the email blast which will list the supplies needed at Healdsburg and Westside Elementary schools. If you are not attending the party, you may drop off your supplies between December 1st and 7th at **Nancy Renkiewicz's** home at 333 2nd Street in Healdsburg.

Notice my adoption of Hollywood lingo since the premier of "Heirloom" which earned over \$1600 for **Healdsburg AAUW Fund**. **Get a tax donation and support of our scholarships and grants to local education. Donate to the Healdsburg AAUW Fund.**

Happy holidays. See you at the new Forum classes starting in January.

— Ronnie Devitt

Healdsburg Homes Tour 2017

Sunday May 7, 2017

10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.



As we head into the holiday season, our spring Homes Tour seems far off. But the HHT committee is already at work planning for next year. The homes selection committee, led by **Yvonne Schell**, has identified a variety of interesting and diverse homes for this year's tour. We will be highlighting an exciting classic Healdsburg home, a beautiful modern home and several wonderfully renovated historic homes within the Healdsburg Museum area. The tour will showcase Healdsburg's homes then and now.

Currently we are working to sign up return sponsors and advertisers as well as organizing our other major fall outreach to potentially new sponsors and advertisers. This is very important because the revenue from advertising and sponsorships represents nearly one-third of our proceeds. Fortunately, we are well on our way, but we need your help. Please consider space in our Homes Tour program an opportunity for your local merchant or service provider's marketing and advertising needs. Interested in approaching a favorite merchant? Contact **Andrea Wolcott** at andreawolcott14@gmail.com with the name of your prospective merchant and she'll provide you with the forms you'll need when you make that visit.

—**Kim Alexander** and **Carlene Reininga**, co-chairs

27th Annual Healdsburg Homes Tour

Save the Date: Sunday, May 7, 2017!



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & ENRICHING THOUGHT

Winter 2017 Courses – Registration begins November 11

After a highly successful Fall 2016 season, our **AAUW Forum** is leaving politics behind to offer two new courses on quite different but fascinating topics. Spend Tuesday mornings learning about jazz through lectures and performances by Len Lyons. On Thursday mornings, with Tyra Benoit, explore two ancient civilizations and how they have withstood periods of transition.

Exploring Jazz Through Its Greatest Artists: Satchmo, Duke, Miles and More **Tuesday Mornings, Winter 2017: January 10–February 14**

Professor Len Lyons informs, entertains and engages his audience in purposeful listening to increase their appreciation of jazz. The focus is on discovering the meaning in the music while understanding the role of improvisation, syncopation and dissonance.

The Ebb and Flow of Civilizations **Thursday Mornings, Winter 2017: January 12–February 16**

Professor Tyra Benoit takes us on an amazing journey spanning two hemispheres and exploring the longevity of the ancient civilizations of the Egyptians and the Maya. Both civilizations experienced periods of transition and decline. Recent events in both geographical areas have caused social uprisings and change, placing these civilizations back on the world stage.

Forum is an important means for our **AAUW** branch to generate the funds that support many community educational efforts and scholarships for women and girls. We hope members who have attended past **Forum** seasons will continue to be enthusiastic participants and we encourage other members to make this the season that you sign up for one or both of these new winter offerings. And recruit your friends! More details and registrations are on the **Forum** home page.

—Katherine Lacy and Barbara Gruber

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY

POST-ELECTION FRUSTRATION AND ENERGY?

THE HEALDSBURG AAUW PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MAY BE THE PLACE FOR YOU

A lot of us had and continue to have, very strong feelings as a result of the recent presidential election cycle. Some of you may be interested in channeling these sentiments into political action. The public policy committee of your **Healdsburg AAUW** may be just the place for you. At the national and state level the public policy committees of **AAUW** advocate for civil rights, economic security, educational opportunities and Title IX issues for women and girls. We support legislative initiatives that promote freedom from violence, pay equity, STEM education for girls and women, reproductive freedom, and paid family leave. Your **AAUW** has organized petition drives, letter-writing campaigns and even trips to Sacramento to support these policy goals. The Healdsburg public policy committee sponsors an “unequal cookie” sale to educate the community about continuing pay inequities, holds candidate and issue forums to educate our communities, participates in voter registration and get-out-the vote drives, and monitors Title IX compliance in local schools. In addition, we advocate for these issues by visiting local elected officials throughout the year. We welcome both new members to the public policy committee and members who simply want to be contacted when the committee needs volunteers to help with various projects.

You don't have to change the world overnight, but you can channel some of your energy toward the betterment of women and girls through political action right here at home. For more information, contact **Michele St.Clair** at 433-8090. — **Michele St. Clair**

With the national presidential election behind us, let's look forward to championing rights for women and families through **AAUW's** upcoming national election.

Visit: <http://www.auw.org/resource/national-election/> to make your own proposals and to comment on others already in play. Should members vote on the **AAUW Public Policy Program**? Perhaps you feel we should change **AAUW's** degree requirements? Our leadership seeks information on how to best represent university women of all political parties in the U.S.

Log in before December 5th, and let **national** know your thoughts.

—**Kathleen Riley Bennett**, Public Policy Committee

—Submitted by **Michele St. Clair**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

FUTURE PREP

Future Prep is our **AAUW** student program held at both Healdsburg and Cloverdale High Schools. The following reports on the launch of the Healdsburg program. Cloverdale High School, coordinated by **Cecile Peters**, will be reported on in future *Grapevine* issues.

FUTURE PREP!, a volunteer effort of **AAUW** in coordination with Rotary and Kiwanis, got off to an early start this year. A call went out in September for volunteers to observe and comment on classroom civics projects. And on Wednesday, November 2nd, the first Career Panel of the year took place. The career category was “Hospitality” and panelists ranged from the pastry chef at Dry Creek Kitchen to a marketing manager for Jackson Family Wines. If the evaluation forms submitted by 47 students are any indication, it was a big success. Many of the students (including 21 freshmen) had never attended a career panel, but they were almost unanimous in their praise for this one and indicated they planned to attend future career panels.

If the term **Future Prep** is unfamiliar, it’s because this name was just adopted during the last school year. The success of the Career Choices program under **Judy Edmond’s** leadership led to requests from the high school for **AAUW** participation in other school activities related to developing “life skills”—skills that, like learning about career choices, help prepare Healdsburg High graduates for a successful adult future. Both local Rotary clubs and the Kiwanis club are partnering with us this year and each one is assuming responsibility for one of the Career Panels. **Katherine Lacy** has assumed **Judy Edmonds’** role as overall coordinator, working with **Elaine Watkins**, Scholarship Coordinator at the high school.

In February, **AAUW** will be responsible for assembling a Career Panel focused on the arts, broadly defined and including film, media and music. **AAUW** members are urged to contact **Katherine** (kk.lacy@gmail.com) with any ideas or suggestions about potential panelists. Here are the general criteria for panelists:

- Panel members should ideally be aged 35 or younger.
- Both men and women should be included.
- Panel should reflect ethnic diversity.
- Panelists must be able to communicate effectively with the students in terms of discussing their career and encouraging interaction by the students.

Other **Future Prep** volunteer opportunities will occur throughout the school year. An e-blast will be issued to let you know about each one as the requests from the school come in. The high school is very appreciative of all **AAUW** efforts on behalf of its students and participating in **Future Prep** is also fun for the volunteers. So watch for those e-blasts!

—Katherine Lacy

COMMUNITY SERVICE, continued

READING ROCKS

Who doesn't love a small country school? We have one right in the middle of our area. West Side School serves 170 students in a one building, one class per grade campus. The school literally sits on Mill creek surrounded by student gardens, chickens, and redwood trees. **Reading Rocks AAUW** volunteers have been serving West Side School for a few years, assisting the first grade teacher with one-on-one tutoring. This year we need more volunteers! Ms Kettmann, the first grade teacher, has a whopping 28 students, and she could use some help. This involves an hour commitment, once a week, to sit with a student or students and listen to them read, and encouraging them to understand the content. **It's simple, it's rewarding, and it's fun.**

If you are interested in helping, contact **Denny Martin** dkmartin7@gmail.com who coordinates **Reading Rocks** at West Side School. You won't be disappointed. You will be richly rewarded with little smiles, and teacher gratitude!

Reading Rocks also takes place at Healdsburg Elementary under the leadership of **Shally Schultz**.

—Denny Martin and Pat Bertapele

FUNDRAISING

Giving Locally

I have to admit that I am not very good at the "Ask". So you're probably wondering why I would agree to be chair of Fundraising if I don't like to ask for donations. The answer is that because I feel so strongly about all the good things **AAUW** does in our local communities I am willing to put my discomfort aside and ask for your help.

By now, you will have received a letter from **Ronnie Devitt** and myself encouraging you to make a direct, tax-deductible, donation to the **Healdsburg AAUW Fund**. As we approach the season when many charitable organizations are soliciting donations, please remember the **Healdsburg AAUW Fund**. When you donate to the **Healdsburg AAUW Fund** you help our **AAUW** branch give back to the community. Your donations enable us to continue supporting local education programs and offering scholarships to local girls and women.

Please remember the **Healdsburg AAUW Fund** as you plan your holiday giving.

Thank you to all of you for your continuing support of **Healdsburg AAUW** and the **Healdsburg AAUW Fund**.

— Janet Hoehn, Fundraising Chair

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

It is time to sign up!

AAUW Annual Holiday Party 2016

Sunday December 4th
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Geyserville Oriental Hall

NEW THIS YEAR

Catered by
Healdsburg High School Culinary Students
\$15.00 per person
Couples bring Bubbles or Wine
Singles bubbles/wine optional but the more the merrier!

Checks payable to:
AAUW Healdsburg

Mailed to:
Barbara Reid
528 Badger St. Healdsburg
RSVP ASAP

REMINDER: We have a tradition of collecting and bringing school supplies to our Holiday Party. Look for the email blast which will list the supplies needed at Healdsburg and Westside Elementary schools. —**Barbara Reid**

HOW DO YOU MAKE AN AAUW FLOAT?

Looking for something artsy to do next spring? Join us in planning an **AAUW** entry in the Twilight Parade - part of our year-long effort to raise our visibility in the community! We have a concept (hint: it involves paper mache) and we need a few enthusiasts to help make it happen... If we can get access to a large truck or flat bed, we can even create a "float" so we won't have to walk!

We hope some of you will join us in the parade - and we hope the rest of you will watch and cheer! We will be inviting some of our scholarship recipients to participate as well. The parade is May 25, 2017. If you'd like to help with the planning, designing and creating, OR if you have access to a large truck or flat bed, OR if you have a graduation gown and mortar board you would be willing to loan, please contact **Winky Merrill** winkymerrill@gmail.com or **Diane Burnley** dburnley@aol.com

—**Winky Merrill and Diane Burnley**

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Fitzgerald



Barrels in our locale are rather common; one supposes a luscious chardonnay inside or perhaps anticipates a tender pinot. But a pig?

Mary laughed. “I grew up on a self-sufficient farm in County Cork, Ireland. My father was a dairy farmer. We grew our own vegetables, produced our own butter, and brined our pigs in barrels for six months. We’d take a piece of the pig out and hang it up from the kitchen ceiling to dry. “ A far cry from our barrel tasting!

Her brother still works the farm, which has been in their family for over 300 years. However, **Mary** went to nursing school, and then worked as a midwife at Dublin’s Coombe Lying-In (Maternity) Hospital. Supported by the Guinness family, both pre and postnatal clients were given a bottle of beer every day. “Guinness is Goodness!” she declared.

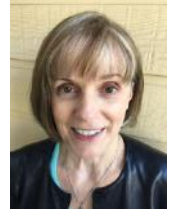
Looking for more adventure during the Irish recession, **Mary** moved to America in ’82 and continued her schooling while working at (Kaiser’s) French Hospital. She just retired last year as the director of nursing practice. She is now spending three days a week at Healdsburg’s Alliance Medical Center. “I am very impressed with this nonprofit community clinic,” she stated. “It’s so professional and provides the same quality care and outcomes as Kaiser!”

While living in San Francisco, **Mary** and her mate, Carl, would bicycle around our area. One morning while on Dry Creek Road, looking over the valley, they both felt it was quite magical looking. They decided it would be the best place to retire. (Perhaps they were standing in a fairy ring?!)

Having just recently moved here, **Mary** would like to get involved in mentoring young women going back to school. Joining **AAUW** is perfect for her to attain that goal, and for us, as they say in her native land, “Cead mile failte,* **Mary!**”

*A hundred thousand welcomes! —**Sue Finan**

Pat Novak Nelson



“Just keep movin’!” That’s **Pat Novak Nelson’s** advice, and my goodness, does she ever!

While employed by Prudential’s financial services, **Pat** moved up the ladder to Vice President, and moved to different areas such as New Jersey, Arizona, and California to oversee her territories. And, before taking early retirement, she began serving on the board of the National Arthritis Foundation. She now serves as their Immediate Past chair of the Northern California Leadership Board.

Afflicted with both rheumatoid and osteoarthritis, she truly understands what it is to have this chronic disease. “Unfortunately, it’s a ‘non-sexy’ condition, so it doesn’t get much publicity. But it’s the most debilitating disorder in this country: One of four people is affected, more women than men, and 300,00 children suffer from it. Although the medical and therapeutic advances have been incredible, unfortunately it’s incurable.”

Pat will be departing from the Arthritis Foundation’s Board soon, (“It’s like having a full time job!”). She’s already joined the Garden Club, although declaring that she doesn’t have a green thumb. “But I do have a thirty-year-old elbow,” she laughed. “I have to have it replaced after playing too much tennis!” She’s also very excited to have more time to work with kids in the Reading Rocks program, and plans to join a Book Discussion Group.

But back to arthritis, if one is among the 25% plagued with this problem, what is one to do? **Pat** suggested a couple of ideas. Each morning, crumple up a piece of paper in each hand, then place the papers on the table, and straighten each one out to be flat again, using only one hand on each.

Another hint: don’t carry bags (such as groceries) down below your waist; instead, hold the bag close to your chest--less stress on your joints! “You have to change some habits and adapt to your weaknesses,” advised **Pat**.

And, of course, keep moving!

—**Sue Finan**

MEMBERS

New member contact information:

Anne Himmelstein
Pat Novak Nelson

mosesmom@mac.com
paninnj@mindspring.com

New members are the lifeblood 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@vbbn.com —Pat Bertapelle

In Rememberance.....

Gloria Cameron passed away recently. We are saddened by this news, and our thoughts are with her family at this time. —Sheila Kneass

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 433-5646

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Occasionally the email and/or website links do not work for some of our **AAUW** members. If this occurs

- For emails, go to your own email site and type in the email address
- For websites, go to Google and type in the website address

We apologize for this inconvenience; however we have been unsuccessful in correcting this occasional glitch.

The **Grapevine** is published online each month, except in July and August. Please submit articles, announcements, and photographs by the 15th of the month to the **Grapevine** editor, **Diane Burnley**, dburnley@aol.com