

The Grapevine

January 2020

Volume 35, Number 5



Beethoven and the Romantic Legacy
Tuesdays 10-11:45 AM, January 7 - February 11

Kayleen Asbo

Come Celebrate a 250th Birthday!

Admired lecturer Kayleen Asbo will show us the power of one lone man to change the world when she teaches us about Beethoven on the 250th anniversary of his birth. Learn how Beethoven created the archetype of Musician as Hero, and how his life and work inspired others in music and other arts.

Dr. Asbo holds five degrees in music, art, and psychology, and is cultural historian for the Santa Rosa Symphony, a pre-concert lecturer for the San Francisco Opera and the Mendocino Music Festival.



Our “Best” Presidents: A Journey Through American History **Chris O’Sullivan**
Thursdays 10-11:45 AM, January 9 - February 13

What Makes a Person the Best?

Popular lecturer Chris O’Sullivan will be talking about the best presidents of the U.S. when he tackles this controversial topic beginning Thursday, January 9th. What makes somebody the “best?” Why do these standings change over the years? Whose reputation is rising, and whose is falling?

Dr. O’Sullivan holds degrees from UC Berkeley and the London School of Economics. He teaches at USF where he is the recipient of the Distinguished Lecturer Award (2012) and the Innovations in Teaching Prize (2014). He is the author of six books on American history.



You can join us for this 6-week series beginning either Tuesday, January 7th (Asbo), or Thursday, 9th (O’Sullivan) to learn more, to enjoy meeting up with other AAUW members, and to help support the community. As you know, all proceeds go to scholarships or local educational programs.

To register go to our web site at www.healdsburg-ca.aauw.net

—Judy Edmonds

President's Message



Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a blessed and wonderful holiday season.

This is the beginning of an exciting year as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote. There will be many events to honor women, beginning with the Cultural Event on January 26 highlighting Clara Schumann, one of the most distinguished pianists of the Romantic era. More information on that in this Grapevine.

In terms of our own new year's resolutions, your board of directors are working on the strategic plan to align with the National AAUW 5 Star Program and achieve at least 4 stars by June 2020.

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/five-star-national-recognition-program/>

The 5 Stars are:

- Programs
- Advancement
- Communications and External Relations
- Public Policy and Research
- Governance and Stability

Future months will include actions and plans for each star, and I'm confident we can achieve that goal!

—Linda Clark

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 3, 2020

30th Annual Healdsburg Homes Tour



Planning continues for the 30th (!!!) tour. We are lining up a great selection of homes that represent the best of our wonderful town.

Betsy Connolly has pulled together a team to solicit sponsors and advertisers for the tour. Again, if you'd like to participate, or if you have ideas for them, please contact Betsy (betsyconnolly718@gmail.com).

Beginning in February you'll hear more from us about tour plans and how you can get involved. The more participation we have, the more money we'll be able to raise to fund our mission-based activities.

—Laura Tyler, Chair
—Julia Graves, Co-chair

Public Policy

Community VIPs (Volunteers In Partnership with Community)

A few years ago when AAUW wasn't well known in the community, our branch started a program to "introduce" the branch - even though we had been established in Healdsburg 30 years earlier! That outreach program, which included a program called Community VIPs, was so successful that in two years we more than doubled our number of members, and realized the program was no longer needed.

Today we have 200+ members, and many local leaders refer to AAUW as "a force in the community." Recently we realized that now we are receiving inquiries from other organizations asking if we can help them in various activities. So, the board decided to revive this program.

In short, when we receive a plea for help from another local non-profit organization for volunteers for an event, this request will be forwarded to the Community VIPs director (**Judy Edmonds**). She will decide if the request meets our guidelines; if so, she will send out an email blast inviting our members to sign up if they are interested.

In the future you may receive notification that another non-profit organization is seeking volunteers. This will be for a one-time occasion. If you are interested, feel free to sign up. But there is no pressure to do so. It's just another example of AAUW supporting the community.

—**Judy Edmonds**

Easy Virtue in 2020

"What's your New Year's resolution?" That annoying question is one I ceased asking anyone—myself included—long ago. Sure, I would love to lose five pounds. But night after night, am I actually going to pass up that glass of wine or piece of chocolate? Hmmm ... well, it hasn't happened yet.

But what if your 2020 New Year's resolution required zip-zero personal deprivation? You might consider it, right? Well, I have a simple one for you. AAUW's Two Minute Activist program makes it easy to support public policy issues on behalf of women at both the state and national levels.

Here's how it works: first sign up at aauw.org, which only takes two minutes. Then, when you receive an email from AAUW about a women's social equity issue, "click" that you endorse it and press "send." Instantly, AAUW National contacts your political representatives to let them know that you support that issue. And that takes less than two minutes!

It's through public policy initiatives that AAUW works to close the pay and wealth gap for women. What easier way than Two Minute Activist for any card-carrying AAUW member to fulfill her public policy obligations in the year ahead? Virtuous self-improvement made easy. Just do it.

—**Diane Bartleson**

Too Much, Too Soon

I first joined AAUW in 1975 when there was an effort to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. I joined because of AAUW's support for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Sadly that effort failed. I am pleased, though, that AAUW continues to support the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, and other initiatives to improve the lives of women and girls.

I enjoy the social aspect of AAUW, but that is the icing on the cake. When I joined over four decades ago, I thought I would see the Equal Rights Amendment pass in my lifetime. It is hard to believe we are still having to fight for such things as equal pay and safe and equitable work places for women, and it is necessary to protect Title IX from being undermined.

I fear that I will pass before the Equal Rights Amendment becomes the law of the land. AAUW gives me a sliver of hope because of AAUW's advocacy. I, for one, do not feel that it is too much too soon! This is a struggle that women in our country have been waging since the birth of our nation, when Abigail Adams admonished John, "to remember the ladies." (He didn't.)

—**Mary Thorpe**



2020 is a new year and a new opportunity for people to have their voices heard! This year will be the four-year anniversary of the Women's March—an opportunity for not just women, but citizens in general, to have their views and their dissent made public.

This year the Women's March will take place on January 18th from 10am-1:30pm at the Santa Rosa Courthouse Square. The AAUW Healdsburg Branch is participating in two ways: 1) We will be staffing a booth providing literature about our organization and 2) We will be organizing a group of members to carpool from both Windsor and Healdsburg. Pick-up locations and drivers are still TBD, but please put this important date (Jan. 18th) in your calendar and plan to attend!

If you are interested in helping with the AAUW table at the Women's March, or have any questions about the upcoming Women's March, please contact Ann Pedersen at japanster27@gmail.com.

—Ann Pedersen

MISSION-BASED PROGRAMS

Reading Rocks

On December 18 the volunteers from Reading Rocks came to Healdsburg Elementary School to give a book to every first-grade student. Individual volunteers went to the classrooms, spread the books on a table, and each student had the opportunity to pick out a book, just for them! The children were so excited, and it was heartwarming to see how thrilled they were to get a brand-new book. Thank you to **Shally Schultz**, the AAUW Reading Rocks coordinator for Healdsburg Elementary and **Pat Bertapelle** at Westside for ordering books, placing individual name plates in each one, and coordinating the event with the teachers and volunteers. Reading Rocks is critical for one of the goals of Mission-Based Programs, which is school readiness. Thank you to all the volunteers who make Reading Rocks a success!

—Beth Wolk



AAUW Reading Rocks volunteers assisted the West Side School first graders to select a book for them to take home. Our tutors have been working hard with these little kiddos to improve their reading skills, attention span, and interest in books. They were more than delighted to have a book of their own! The whole first grade also honored us with a rehearsal of their holiday concert songs. It was adorable. After book selection we presented teacher, Ms. Dalton, with a beautiful holiday hardcover book for school story time.

—Pat Bertapelle

More photos from Reading Rocks



GEMS (Girls Engaged in Math & Sciences)

In October GEMS (Girls Engaged in Math and Science) sponsored two programs for junior high and high school students.

Bodega Bay Marine Laboratory (BML)

On October 22 there was a field trip to the University of California's Bodega Marine Laboratory (BML) located in Bodega Bay. In attendance were 19 students from Cloverdale, Geyserville, Healdsburg and Windsor schools. AAUW chaperones included **Vicki Pearson**, **Martha Noble**, **Cathy Mock**, **Karla Rosen** and **Diane Bartleson**.

One of the highlights of the tour was a 24-foot-long display, containing many colorful local fishes and invertebrates, and a small kelp forest. Past that was a harbor aquarium, holding residents of the local estuary, and a subtidal habitat displaying anemones, etc. However, BML is not a museum or a zoo. It is a full-time research facility. Students had the opportunity to observe ongoing studies and learn how BML scientists do their research, including conservation programs and environmental challenges related to the northern California coastline. In addition, the students were given a special tour of BML's aquaculture operation.

Another highlight of the trip was a special presentation by Jackie Sones, Ph.D., about the focus of ongoing research on the impact to marine life by increased sea water temperatures. Dr. Sones has experience working in marine, estuarine, freshwater, and terrestrial systems with a diversity of plants and animals. She documents change in coastal ecosystems and recently co-authored a Scientific Reports article describing geographic range extensions of marine species in northern California. Her work also includes education and public outreach.

Professional Women's Career Panel

The second October GEMS event was a Professional Women's Panel held at the Healdsburg Library. The Panel was focused on careers in STEM with seven dynamic women sharing their education and career journeys, including:

- Heidi Barnes, BS Engineering, 10 years at NASA in aerospace, Currently Senior Application Engineer at Keysight Technologies
- Mary Barsony, Astrophysicist, BS Physics, Ph.D. Astronomy, Astronomer and Senior Research Scientist at the Space Science Institute.
- **Linda Clark**, BS, MBA. Chemistry Technologist, Director of Hospital Laboratories, Director Emergency Care Centers, Director of Hospital Quality Management
- **Sophie Fletcher**, BS Anthropology, MD Urology, Asst Urology Professor, Co-Director of Sutter Pelvic Health & Incontinence Center in Santa Rosa
- Elsa Frick, BS, MS Bioengineering. Environmental Health Specialist, Onsite waste-water consultant
- Mahek Laxmipriya, BS, MS Biomedical Engineering, Regulatory Affairs Professional at Medtronic
- **Martha Noble**, BS, Graduate Student Biological Sciences, JD. Environmental Law, Professor, Agricultural and Environmental Law, Member US EPA

—Vicki Pearson

2019 SRJC Scholarships for Re-entry Women: “Our efforts are making a difference.”

As a part of our Healdsburg AAUW branch’s mission of encouraging higher education for women, this year we awarded scholarships to eight highly deserving, re-entry women who graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College and are now pursuing their degrees at a four-year college/university. These awards bring the total amount in scholarships to SRJC students to nearly \$255,000 since 1995. Applicants were carefully screened and interviewed by our scholarship committee that included Cindy Brenton, Mickey Sarquis, Phil Wright and myself.

Besides the academic rigor of taking college classes, this year’s awardees have had to overcome a host of significant barriers that cause many others to rethink their need for a college degree, lower their career goals, or walk away from college never to return. Not so with this year’s scholarship recipients! While they all at one point were forced to step back from school, each rallied in her own way, worked through and overcame the challenges that confronted them, returned to and graduated from SRJC, and are now pursuing degrees at a 4-year college/university. What did this year’s candidates face that forced them to drop out of school in the first place?

- * Having to support her parents by making mortgage payments and putting food on the table
- * Overcoming a childhood with parents addicted to drugs
- * Getting trapped into human trafficking and abusive relationships
- * Living in poverty as a child
- * Being stabbed by a mentally ill family member
- * Having cancer
- * Struggling with mental health issues

The stories of their challenges are heartbreaking. But despite all that confronted these women, our recipients were winners! They DID return and graduated with highest honors from the SRJC. The selflessness and dedication to their communities is also worth noting. Each in her own way not only worked to better her own life, but also worked to make a difference in the lives of others. You can find brief bios and photos of this year’s awardees on the Community Service/Scholarships and Grants page of our Branch Web site.

—Jane Martin, Committee Chair

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

Hidden Genius: A Celebration of Clara Schumann

Clara Wieck Schumann was one of the most extraordinary women who has ever lived. Clara is most known for being a muse to two men of genius: her husband Robert Schumann and her lifelong beloved friend Johannes Brahms.

In this lecture-performance that marks the 200th anniversary of Clara’s birth, Santa Rosa Symphony Cultural Historian Kayleen Asbo shares the heartwarming story of Clara Wieck Schumann, with musical guests joining in a live performance. To read more about Clara Schumann, see the recent NY Times article here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/28/arts/music/clara-schumann.html>



Sunday January 26, 3pm, home of **Hallie Beacham**
Wine and Nibbles
383 Bridle Path, Healdsburg \$25 per person
Checks please made to **Hallie Beacham** at the address above

Husbands and friends welcome as space allows
RSVP to hbeacham@gmail.com by one week before

Limited parking: Carpooling is encouraged



Valentine's Day Happy Hour - February 12

Please join us in celebrating Valentine's Day at our first Happy Hour of the year. The event will take place at Young & Yonder Spirits on Allan Ct. just west of Grove Street. This will be a fun event with creative cocktails made from their craft distilled spirits for \$10.00. Hope you can join us in their very welcoming tasting room.

Date: Wednesday, February 12
Time: 5-7
Bring: Appetizer, Cash for Cocktails
Location: 449 Allan Court (west of Grove and north of North)

Please look for an RSVP request e-blast a few weeks prior to the event. We look forward to what we hope will be an enthusiastic turnout for a Valentine Celebration!

SAVE THE DATE!

***Healdsburg AAUW Winter Wine 'n Dine
Saturday, February 22, 2020
Venues to be determined***

Lunch Bunch at the Trading Post



We had a huge turnout for Lunch Bunch last month. Thirty-one AAUW members shared a delightful lunch at the **Trading Post** in Cloverdale. The lunch started with two kinds of house-made focaccia followed by two salads including a seasonal farro verde salad. The main course was chicken and beef skewers which were delicious! Finally, we ended the meal with cookies and homemade ice cream. The luncheon was a welcome back respite from our experiences with evacuations and gave everyone a chance to reconnect and welcome in the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Everyone had a great time and is looking forward to the next lunch bunch in January.

Upcoming Lunch Bunch dates are January 15th, February 19th and April 22nd so be sure to Save these Dates. We're in the process of closing in on several new restaurant experiences which you won't want to miss! Keep on the lookout for email messages where we will announce the locations.

—Connie Cservenyak

MEMBERSHIP – MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Nancy Andrews

Nancy and her husband lived a couple of years in the Bay Area back in the 1980s. During that time they made several trips up to wine country and never forgot its beauty. Years later, after retirement she and her husband made their home in Healdsburg and have been here two years.

With her PhD in plant biology, and a speciality in wetlands, Nancy has fought for water quality wearing a variety of hats in a variety of cities. Her husband's art director background required that he change positions frequently. Luckily, as they moved across the country, Nancy was able to find satisfying and important work with the EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service and the Obama administration. She worked on water quality, flood planning, resource management and risk assessments issues.

Nancy is hardly idle at retirement, volunteering with Healdsburg's 2040 group, working to connect the community with the river. "The more interaction people have with the river, the more likely they will act to protect it." She immediately became active in AAUW, hiking regularly and volunteering to organize "worksmart" workshops to teach women how to negotiate for a fair salary.



Hilary Hasco

A native of England, Hilary moved to the United States in 1982 and landed in Saratoga. Although she taught Kindergarten and first grade in England, Hilary began working as a sales executive at First American Title and found she really enjoyed work, staying 19 years. After retiring, she and her husband looked to leave the crowds in Silicon Valley. They were so happy to find Windsor where they moved in July 2019.

Hilary and her husband are enamored with wine and the industry as well as country life. "I just love driving down the freeway and seeing goats." They also both love to cook, making everything from scratch and have always enjoyed family meals together. She has a daughter who works as a sanctions lawyer in Washington DC and two step-daughters as well—one in New York and the other in Beijing, China.

Hilary volunteers at the Treasure House, a store which benefits victims of domestic violence, and helps out at the Food Bank as well. She is excited to become involved in the Homes Tour as she has been involved in similar house tours in the South Bay.



Linda Wilkie

Originally from Minneapolis, Linda got her B.A. from the University of Minnesota, majoring in humanities and art history. Although she and her husband met in Minnesota and later moved to Boston, he lobbied to move back to California where he had attended college. They moved their family to Mill Valley.

When her children were in middle school, Linda went back to school and got her masters in fine arts from the San Francisco Art Academy. From then on she was a professional portrait photographer, shooting—among other things—celebrities at the Mill Valley Film Festival. She is especially proud of her master's project in which she made portraits of girls in her daughter's middle school class that accompanied intimate essays they wrote about their lives—an important experience for young teenage girls emerging into adulthood.

Linda and her husband moved up from Mill Valley to Healdsburg 11 years ago when they retired. She continues to shoot photos, mostly now for non-profit organizations. Linda loves to read and has been an avid meditator for many years. She decided to join AAUW because so many of her friends encouraged her to do so and is interested in Tech Trek, Great Decisions and the Homes Tour.



Taryn Young

Taryn and her family moved to Santa Rosa some 28 years ago looking for a quieter life than the one they lived in the East Bay. In Sonoma County, Taryn worked for a variety of government organizations doing an array of human resources jobs. She was an investigator for the County of Sonoma in their Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and ended her career as the Equal Employment Manager for the County of Sonoma. Taryn's warm and easy going demeanor complimented her choice of employment. Although the potential for conflict seemed high in her job, Taryn rarely encountered the animus one associate's with employment disputes. She enjoyed her work very much.



Retired, Taryn and her husband spent a year exploring the U.S. and Canada in their RV. She has begun to play the piano again, teaching herself using an on-line program. In addition, she helps to care for her aging mom, along with her sister and daughter. Taryn is a member of the Santa Rosa AAUW chapter and was drawn to join Healdsburg as well because of the public policy committee and the hiking group. Taryn was a night student in college and remembers how difficult it can be to pursue education as an adult. She wants to help other women achieve their educational goals.

—Hillary Kambour

The Grapevine is published online each month, except in July and August. Please submit articles and announcements in WORD or PAGES and photographs in JPEG by ***the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which you want them included.*** Please be aware that any submitted article that is longer than one page will be edited as necessary. Send both feedback and newsletter content to me at kk.lacy@gmail.com. Many thanks!