

# The Grapevine

February 2020

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**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. If you'd like to participate, or if you have ideas for them, please contact Betsy (betsyconnolly718@gmail.com).

You will soon 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

## President's Message



Thank you, thank you, thank you!

In a previous column you were recognized for all of the time you volunteer for the many projects that put our mission into practice. This month I would like to share all of the amazing work that is done entirely because of your generous and heartfelt financial contributions. I continually get requests from other branches to share how we do it.

Healdsburg AAUW operates two separate organizations. The Healdsburg AAUW Branch, a non-profit 501(c)(4) gets its revenue from your annual dues. These dues are \$104, of which \$25 goes to the Healdsburg AAUW Branch. This money is used for public policy events and activities, our Fall and Spring member meetings, administrative costs such as name tags, brochures, conventions and any gaps between costs of social activities and registration fees. Your board discusses any proposed use of this money to ensure that it is used wisely. The Branch cash assets are currently about \$13,000.

Our non-profit 501(c)(3) organization is the Healdsburg AAUW Fund. There are many sources of money for our Fund, including your generous individual donations. Thank you for a fantastic response to our end of year Fund Raiser, which generated over \$12,000!

Another revenue source is our annual Healdsburg Homes Tour, budgeted this year to achieve net revenue of \$45,000. This includes admission tickets purchased by community residents and members, plus advertising revenue and sponsor donations. The Forum presentations for community residents and members bring in additional money for the Fund, budgeted this year for net revenue of \$21,000.

Many of you have designated AmazonSmile to contribute a percent of your purchase to Healdsburg AAUW. Signing up for eScrip also sends a percent of your purchase to Healdsburg AAUW. I encourage everyone to sign up, as these options are an easy way to obtain donations automatically, currently budgeted at \$150. Sign up on our website's Fundraising page or contact **Barbara Epstein** for more information.

Tech Trek sponsors make designated donations for scholarships for our students to attend the annual Tech Trek summer STEM program at Stanford University, budgeted for \$9,000.

Each fiscal year the current Board of Directors meets to evaluate our most important charitable needs, and approve the Fund budget. This year the Fund will give \$109,000 for scholarships, grants and programs for area schools and to assist other local community non-profits with goals consistent with our mission.

What sets us apart from many branches are the many opportunities for residents of our community, who are not AAUW members, to participate and donate to our programs. We are highly respected as a leader in advancing equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy in our area—and that's entirely due to the passion and commitment you all bring.

With gratitude,  
**Linda Clark**

## Public Policy

### Equal Pay Day – Wear Red!

The next Equal Pay Day (EPD) is Tuesday, March 31, 2020. This date represents how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. The National Committee on Pay Equity <https://www.pay-equity.org/day.html> reminds us to wear red to symbolize how far women and minorities are “in the red” with their pay. This is a great idea for Branch members working EPD tables in their communities or at local colleges.

AAUW’s publication, The Simple Truth, provides the most recently released data from the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2018, women received just 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man. Women of color often face a wider gap: compared to white men, Black women make 62 cents on the dollar, and Latinas make 54 cents on the dollar. The pay gap has only decreased by a nickel in the twenty-first century. For more information on the Gender Pay Gap, and ideas for EPD events, check out <https://www.aauw.org/resource/how-to-equal-pay-day/>.

On the national level, the Paycheck Fairness Act passed in the House of Representatives and languishes in the Senate with no action yet taken. The Equal Pay Act requires that men and women be given equal pay for equal work in the same establishment. The jobs need not be identical, but they must be substantially equal. It is job content, not job titles, that determines whether jobs are substantially equal. Specifically, the EPA provides that employers may not pay unequal wages to men and women who perform jobs that require substantially equal skill, effort and responsibility, and that are performed under similar working conditions within the same establishment.

According to WAGE (Women Are Getting Even), women earn \$1 million less than men in their lifetime. AAUW has facilitated Start Smart and Work Smart Workshops to help close the gap, and you can learn more about these workshops at the website: <https://www.pay-equity.org/day-kit.html>. AAUW now offers an online one-hour Work Smart Workshop accessed from the AAUW.org website, for salary negotiation skills.

**Karen Jackle**  
AAUW-CA Public Policy Committee

### Women’s March

Once Upon a Time (well, actually it was January 18th around noon), a couple of hundred Little Women (big ones too!) got together to demand a farewell to inequality. Although there were a few jokers at the Santa Rosa Courthouse Square, the endgame was to rally alongside the other Women’s Marches taking place throughout the nation. Moving right along, the message was clear: **“Ready or Not, Together We Rise.”**

Mark these dates on your calendar to connect, be inspired, and become engaged:  
January 24th - September 30th, “From Suffrage to #MeToo” at the Sonoma County Museum  
March 12th: AAUW’s Suffragette’s Tea  
March 14th, 2:00 p.m. “California Women Win the Vote” movie at Windsor Library

Because frankly, my Dears, we should give a damn!

—Sue Finan



## More Photos from the Women's March - January 18, 2020



## AAUW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Ronnie Devitt

Ronnie Devitt...so much to say, and so little space. Joining AAUW 10 years ago at the urging of her friend, Charlene Luks, Ronnie immediately joined the Homes Tour team and over the years was “promoted” to Homes Tour Co-Chair, holding it for three years. In her last year as co-chair, she was also Branch VP. As Branch president (2015 - 2016), Ronnie led the Board through setting up the Branch as a nonprofit. Our Branch has greatly benefited from our nonprofit status in our ability to fund raise and contribute to the community.

Ronnie loves the Healdsburg Branch of AAUW for the wonderful people in the organization and the contribution it makes to the community. The national membership requirement of a degree, however, has become a sticking point for her as she feels it is discriminatory without any rational basis. She would drop AAUW until the degree requirement is changed if it weren't for the wonderful people and great work done by our branch.

A little background on Ronnie.... Obtained a B.A. and M.A. from Marquette University (WI) and taught college level sociology and anthropology. She and Tom came to California the first time in 1964, courtesy of the Marine Corps. They liked CA, returning in 1970. Ronnie went to law school and patent law immediately interested her. To be admitted to the patent bar required an undergraduate degree in science or engineering or 40 units of chemistry. Who knew? She got her 40 chemistry units. Ronnie then spent over 30 years as a trademark attorney in San Francisco, protecting many world-famous trademarks. She became a managing partner of her firm. Ronnie's 'firsts' are amazing: one of the first women patent attorneys in the Bay Area, the first woman President of the San Francisco Patent Law Association, the first woman Chair of the Intellectual Property Section of the CA State Bar and the first woman member of the Council of the Intellectual Property Section of the American Bar Association.



Hobbies? Reading, gardening, traveling, playing bridge and jigsaw puzzles. She and Tom also have season tickets to the SF Symphony, Ballet, Opera and ACT and Healdsburg's Raven Theater!

—Nancy Haiston

## MISSION-BASED PROGRAMS

### Holiday Teacher Supplies

Thank you so much to everyone who donated Holiday Gift Supplies to go to our local schools. The staff, principals, and students were thrilled! Thank you to **Cathy Mock** for coordinating this wonderful event.



—Beth Wolk

### EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS SONOMA COUNTY 28th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday March 28, 2020 Sonoma State University 8-10a.m.

WE NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN ME AND HELP REGISTER STUDENTS! AAUW is a proud sponsor and supporter of this exciting opportunity for our area students. This is a one-day conference to encourage 7th and 8th graders to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Students from Sonoma, Marin, Napa and Lake counties participate in hands-on workshops lead by women experts in these fields.

If you are interested, please email, text or call Victoria Toboni by March 11, 2020:  
707-591-4084 or [maclachlan123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maclachlan123@sbcglobal.net)

—Victoria Toboni, Healdsburg AAUW EYH Liaison

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

### FABULOUS FARM TO TABLE LUNCH BUNCH AT SIMI WINERY

We had our largest Lunch Bunch group yet today: 40 Members! Nearly 20 percent of our branch enjoyed a fabulous Farm to Table lunch created specifically for us. Chef Kolin and his team served us a Kaboucha squash soup with pumpkin seed agro dolce crema to begin, followed by homemade gemilli pasta with braised chicken, winter root vegetables, and Kale pesto. The vegetable was broccoli rabe with anchovy, garlic and lemon—all accompanied by house-made focaccia bread. After all this, we had a fantastic apple croustata served with cardamom gelato. WoW! Of course we gave Chef Kolin and his team a standing ovation.

If you missed this lunch, you still have the opportunity to join us at the remaining lunches for this fiscal year: February 19th we'll be at Willi's Seafood Restaurant in Healdsburg, and April 22nd we'll be out on the patio at Frances Ford Coppola's restaurant, Rustic, in Geyserville.

Feel free to send checks for the next lunch at Willi's, payable to **Connie Cservenyak** at 1083 Vine St, #238, Healdsburg, 95448.

## LEAD THE PARADE



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To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Women winning the right to vote, Healdsburg AAUW plans to participate in the annual Healdsburg FFA parade on May 28th. In order for that to happen, we need someone to be the organizer.

Everyone who has participated in previous parades had a fun experience. We are joined by scholarship winners, Tech Trekkers and GEMS. There are many ideas floating around to make this a teachable moment. **Diane Burnley** and **Winky Merrill** have organized this in the past and have supplies and information to share with the 2020 organizer.

Please contact **Linda Clark** if you can lead the effort. (It's always nice to have a friend as co-chair.)

—Linda Clark



### *Valentine's Day Happy Hour - February 12th*

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 pm  
Bring: Appetizer, Cash for Cocktails  
Location: 449 Allan Court (west of Grove and north of North)

We look forward to what we hope will be an enthusiastic turnout for a Valentine Celebration! RSVP to [carolhazlett@me.com](mailto:carolhazlett@me.com) or [neitacomings@hotmail.com](mailto:neitacomings@hotmail.com).

—Carol Hazlett and Neita Comings

## MEMBERSHIP

### Sue Phillips – Obituary

Sue K. Phillips, 87, of Greenview Drive, Lancaster, Pa. passed away at her residence on Sunday, December 22, 2019, with her daughter Jennifer present. They are pictured together in the photo at right.

Sue was born in Reading, Pa. the daughter of the late Dr. Henry D. Kunkel and Geraldine M. Asper. Sue and her widowed mother traveled throughout the United States when she was a child—experience that contributed to her life long love of seeing and experiencing the world. They eventually settled in Tampa where Sue graduated from high school.

Sue graduated from Ohio University with a degree in journalism. She and her husband, Dick, settled in Cleveland where her children, Jennifer and Mark, were born. Following her divorce, Sue began a career shift into computer science, and Sue returned to Lancaster, Pa. to be closer to family.

As a single mother she then moved to Washington and worked for Voice of America and had assignments throughout the world. Sue became Director of Computer Systems at the US Embassies in sub-Saharan Africa, London, and Beijing. Following retirement, she moved to Healdsburg and lived here for twenty years before returning to Lancaster to be near family.

A lover of books, France, China, travel, cats, gardening, good food and wine; a volunteer with the Healdsburg Museum; and a long term AAUW member, Sue will be missed. Please visit Sue's Memorial Page: [www.thegroffs.com](http://www.thegroffs.com).

—Audrey Darby



### Meet a New Member

#### Julia Weller

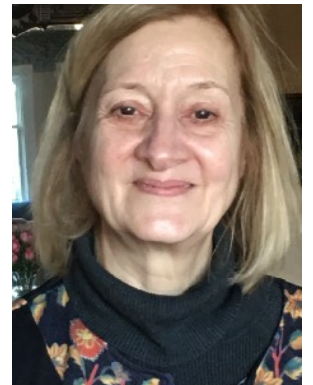
Julia left her home in England to go to college in Canada where she met her husband, Dan. She obtained both her bachelor's and a law degree in Canada before moving to the U.S. and then received a master's in law in the U.S. in order to practice energy law in Washington D.C.

For the past twenty years, Julia has worked with emerging market nations in the former Soviet Union and North Africa to meet their energy goals. With her husband, a professor of pathology and cancer researcher at Georgetown University, she raised three children, one of whom lives in Rwanda. They now have five grandchildren, and still counting! Both Julia and her husband continue to work part-time, she remotely, with the governments of Tajikistan, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, while Dan will be teaching a biotechnology course in Washington D.C. during the autumn semester.

They plan to split their time between California and the Washington D.C. area, so that Dan can continue making wine (which he started in their basement 15 years ago). They bought a home here in 2014 and rented it out until they were able to move here from the Washington D.C. area in 2017.

In her spare time, Julia is writing a novel for young adults about the pre-Israel history of Jews in Palestine during the Ottoman period. Julia heard about AAUW from her yoga instructor and, given her background, was especially intrigued by the lectures on British Revolutions.

—Hillary Kambour



## The Membership Directory has been updated!

Check out our new members from 2019 and other changes in **RED**.

If your own information needs any updating, please send an email to [blsreid@gmail.com](mailto:blsreid@gmail.com). The change will be included in the next quarterly update. Note: This update is the most current information.

To access the directory go to the Membership page on our website and then scroll down to the “Members Only” section. You will need the password. The new password for 2020 has been sent to you in an email blast.

**Membership Directory:** Save this directory to your computer as it contains Member ID, name, address, phone numbers and email. Or print it out—now at 5 pages long.

**Personal Information Directory:** Includes partner, occupation, degree, school and some photos. It is a process to get all of the pictures uploaded! This directory is not for printing. Please go to the website and use for reference only.

The next update will be in April 2020.

## New Member Orientations

New members are encouraged to attend the new member orientation sessions. When you receive an invitation from **Yvonne Schell**, the Buddy Coordinator, please reply and come to learn of ways you can become involved with our Branch. If you are interested in becoming a Buddy for a new member please email Yvonne at [yschell@comcast.net](mailto:yschell@comcast.net).

—Barbara Reid, Membership Director

The Grapevine is published online monthly except for July and August. Please submit articles in WORD or PAGES and photographs as JPEGs. PDFs cannot be accepted because they cannot be manipulated for formatting purposes. The deadline for submissions is 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 feedback and newsletter content to me at [kk.lacy@gmail.com](mailto:kk.lacy@gmail.com). Many thanks! Katherine Lacy