

# The Grapevine

June 2020

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## *President's Message*



I have mixed emotions as I write my final President's Message. Serving in this capacity has reinforced my belief that Healdsburg AAUW members are some of the finest women I've ever met. Your kindness, support of each other, willingness to try new things, and energy about providing services for the children and women in our communities is unparalleled.

When I took on this role, I had no idea of the roller coaster of natural disasters that would occur. Through it all, your resilience and creativity has helped us all. I respect each of you and am so thankful to have you as friends.

Take care. Stay safe.

—Linda Clark

## **2019-2020 Healdsburg AAUW Year End Report**

What a year! We started with wildfires and our communities being evacuated for about a week. Then, the Russian River flooded. And we ended with COVID-19. Yet through it all, we remained committed to our mission and each other. What an amazing group of members.

National AAUW's Strategic Plan included assisting branches to focus and align their goals with National. They provided guidelines and a method to submit accomplishments through their website. Fortunately, the plans were consistent with our ongoing work and did not add any costs to Healdsburg AAUW.

Our goal for the year was to achieve at least 4 of the 5 goals of the AAUW 5-Star Program. Congratulations! We met our goal.

### **Programs-Sue Campbell and Karla Rosen**

- Updated the website and developed a Work Smart Training Day. The workshop was put on hold because of COVID-19 and will be rescheduled.
- Conducted a GEMS panel discussion of women leaders in a variety of STEM fields.

- Developed and conducted a Money Matters workshop for Expanding your Horizons, which was rescheduled for September.
- Completed community resource mapping.

**Advancement - Barbara Epstein and Barbara Reid**

- Fund raising for non restricted funds in a year end drive brought in \$12,300 for \$54/member which exceeds the \$30/member goal.
- Membership increased by 24 members, which exceeded the goal of retaining 90% of members.
- Received an award from CA AAUW as top branch in the state for retaining and adding members.
- No action for Legacy circle.

**Communications and External Relations -Sue Campbell and Mary Fitzgerald**

- Developed and implemented an Advocacy Tab on our website.
- Included a link to Work Smart online on the website home page.

**Public Policy and Research - Sue Campbell**

- Introduced 2-Minute Activist to members and the community at December and January Forums.
- Surveyed members to determine their participation. (Data not available from National.)
- Scheduled meeting with Congressman Mike McGuire that is on hold because of COVID-19.

**Governance and Stability -Kate Van Ness and Linda Clark**

- Developed action plans for completing the 5-Star Program. Submitted results for inclusion under strategic plans on the website.
- Included succession planning in Vice President job description.

–Linda Clark

**Public Policy**



**TITLE IX IS BEING DECIMATED: WILL YOU HELP?**

Last week the Department of Education issued a long-anticipated but extremely harmful rule designed to substantially weaken Title IX, rolling back important protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault. Unfortunately, the administration chose this challenging time to finalize it, adding to the confusion already felt within the education community.

AAUW is launching a multi-pronged campaign in response and is determined to stop this rule from ever going into effect. Proactive responses are needed to provide schools with resources to fully realize Title IX’s promise of equity in education. Members of Congress are urged to cosponsor the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA).

GEEA would help to reduce and prevent sex discrimination in all areas of education by supporting the vital, on-the-ground efforts of Title IX coordinators through additional resources, training, and technical assistance. It would also authorize competitive grants to K-12 schools, colleges, local education agencies, or states to support their gender equity work.

AAUW advocates were key to the passage of Title IX and continue to fight today to realize the full promise of the law, despite the recent announcement of this harmful rule. To urge members of Congress to build on the legacy of Title IX by cosponsoring GEEA, please respond to AAUW’s recent 2-Minute Activist/Action Network email or sign up at [www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist](http://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist) today!

–Sue Campbell

## AAUW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Hillary Kambour

Like many of you, Hillary was the first AAUW member that I met when she interviewed me for the Meet the New Members column in the Grapevine. I immediately felt comfortable with her, and we had a great conversation. Her warmth and interest made me even more excited about my decision to join AAUW. When I became the chair of Mission-Based Programs, Hillary and **Diane Burnley** were the chairs of Speech Trek, which they coordinated for a number of years.



This past year, I asked—actually pleaded with—Hillary to work on the Future Prep committee. She basically became the only member working to plan the events with me and the staff at Healdsburg High School, emailing and reminding the speakers and facilitating the introductions and discussions during the event. She was working on the second Future Prep on the building and automotive trades when school was closed. I am sure it would have been another successful and inspiring event.

Hillary is also an active member of the Public Policy Committee, passionately working on the equal rights for women and girls. She was instrumental in planning the wonderful event last year to commemorate Equal Pay Day and has been busy working with the committee on a variety of issues. She has written some excellent letters to the editor that have been published in the Press Democrat that highlight the current issues affecting all of us.

Thank you, Hillary, for all you do for our branch.

—Beth Wolk

## Fund-raising



AAUW Healdsburg budgets over \$75,000 each year for scholarships and community grants to local women and children. This is funded by proceeds from our Homes Tour, Forum, and your direct donations. Canceling the Spring Forum and our Homes Tour put a GAP in the funds available for next year's contributions.

Our recent email blast asking for help drew contributions from many of you and we greatly appreciate your generosity.

But we still have a GAP, so we are asking that more members step up and make a difference in the lives of local women and children. A ticket to the AAUW Spring Forum cost \$95. A Homes Tour ticket cost \$50. Please donate what you would have spent on tickets for these canceled events; or, if you can, donate more.

Your tax deductible donation should be made to Healdsburg AAUW Fund and sent to: PO Box 1064, Healdsburg, CA 95448. Or you can donate using our Donate tab on the AAUW website (Healdsburg-ca.aauw.net).

Thank you for your support.

—Barbara Epstein - Fund Raising Director

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

The Social Committee is unfortunately done for the season but planning and thinking ahead on future events. We will keep everyone in the AAUW membership informed and updated when we are back in business and have events lined up. We are trying to remain flexible. We realize that many people will not be comfortable being part of a social group right away, even if restrictions are lifted in the county and the state.

Thank you to the membership for participating and supporting the social activities. I especially want to thank all the Social Committee members who made the events so successful for the 2019/2020 year: Carol Hazlett, Neita Comings, Ann Mahoney, Violet Nelson, Hallie Beacham, Diane Burnley, Connie Cservenyak, Cecile Peters, Holly Schatz, Tanya Enders Beach, Susan Lentz, and the many members who pitched in to help with all the events.

—Kathryn Henderson  
Social Committee Chair

## MEMBERSHIP

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE 2020

NEWS FLASH! Healdsburg AAUW Branch Awarded Highest Membership Increase of any Branch in California!!

Congratulations to all of you for recruiting your friends and family to our Branch. We had 24 new members this fiscal year and our retention was very high with only 17 members not renewing and the majority of those were due to relocation. Our branch membership stands at 220 strong. Well done!

Not only are we a powerhouse in membership, but we also have many members with amazing longevity in AAUW.

40 Years Plus: Charlotte Garner, Sue Finan, Heidi Blumenthal & Nora Colbert.

30 Years Plus: Judy Voight & Audrey Darby

25 Years Plus: Laura Tredinnick, Janice Sceales, Deana Fusco & Charlene Luks

Thank you for your continued support and we all look forward to the time when we can come together and celebrate our accomplishments.

—Barbara Reid, Membership Director

## SHELTERING IN PLACE (SIP)

### Jean Short

This year started off right! Departed Fort Lauderdale on January 4 for 128 of days sailing the Southern Hemisphere. What more could you ask for? South America, Antarctica, Easter Island (long on my bucket list!), South Pacific Isles, New Zealand, Australia and what??? Singapore and Indonesia will not open their ports to our ship? What? Disbanding cruise in Perth, Australia? Have to find our own way home? We're only half way through the cruise. What about all our stops in Africa?

Well, fortunately, we made it to LAX in good health and came home to a new world!

I am currently at Dean (son) and Katy's lovely Irvine home and helping my 3 grandchildren navigate this stay-at-home environment! Planning on returning to my Healdsburg home in June. Crossing my fingers!



## Sue Finan

Camouflaging my Boris Johnson look during these “bad hair days”....

Remember the ‘50’s? Babushkas and conical bras. But instead of resembling Marilyn Monroe, I looked like a Russian granny.

Thinking ‘60’s - ironing hair or wrapping it around juice cans. Ha!

The ‘70’s? I wore wigs - a pageboy, an Afro, and a bubble cut. Alas! Raley’s doesn’t sell wigs.

They do sell barrettes. I tried the ‘80’s upswept Charley’s Angels look. It didn’t fly.

On to the ‘90’s: the hoodie, a la Puff Daddy or Mark Zuckerberg. With sun glasses and the mask, I could have the locks of Medusa, and no one recognizes me.

Or I could order a burka from Amazon (only \$29.99, comes in 8 different colors). Too hot. So for now the hoodie is handling my “bad hair” days.

## Terry Leach

During SIP we wanted to continue to visit with friends, and support local Healdsburg-area businesses. Already missing Trivia Night at Kinsmoke, we decided to start an on-line Trivia game, that we call “Virtual Apocalypse Trivia,” and host on Zoom. We invited about 15 teams, comprising couples or singles, our adult children and other extended family. We asked all teams to consider donating whatever they could afford, with the idea that we’d buy gift certificates, primarily for Healdsburg-area restaurants, for our top 3 or 4 winners and our last place participant. We raised \$435 in the first round.

We pull together trivia questions and answers from many sources including participants, who were each asked to contribute ten questions (with answers), and we created themes for the different nights. The “Sex, Politics, and Religion” category was particularly popular.

We just finished our first 6-week round and announced winners last Tuesday. No surprise that AAUW member Hillary Kambour and her husband Mike swamped the competition. Our daughter and her partner in the East Bay came in third. It’s been great to have the ability to see friends and family laugh. No talk of the virus is allowed. And, by the way, the Trivia Hosts are always right—even when we’re wrong!

We’re happy to help other teams get started with ideas on how to kick this off, especially if they similarly support local businesses.

## Scarlett Wood

Prior to SIP I played tennis 2x/week and bridge 2-3x/week. As an outgoing and social person, big changes were met with gratitude for the resourcefulness of the AAUW bridge group and AAUW book club. With the recommendation of our wonderful teacher and mentor, Al Lobel, we learned about bridgebase.com. Our president and fellow bridge player, Linda, organized several weekly games for us. This was something to enjoy and anticipate weekly. We connected via our phones so we could talk and visit during play.

Linda then organized a cocktail party via Zoom, thus creating an opportunity for me and others to become acquainted with yet another social aspect of technology and perfect for SIP! We’re able to see and hear each other for the first time in 40+ days! Zoom was also used by our first Wednesday of the month book club. Judith organized a tutorial for those of us new to Zoom and Linda kept us from all talking at once while Amy fielded stimulating questions about the book, “Bad Blood.”

I am enjoying gardening my veggies as well as my flowering plants. Sophie, my beloved poochie, thinks I am at her beck and call all during her waking hours. She has been my walking companion nearly every day.

I truly miss being with people. Change has always been the order of the day and how we adjust depends on the choices we make.

Air Hugs!

## Katherine Lacy

Isn't everyone streaming movies more often than they'd like to admit? In its May 25th issue the New Yorker's film critic, Anthony Lane, reviews movies that deal with various forms of pandemic, beginning with silent films of the 1920s and moving through the decades up until very recent releases like "Contagion," which is eerily prescient. The list of those he mentions is too long to reproduce here but a few that got my attention were "Faust" (1926); "Panic in the Streets" (1950, directed Elia Kazan); David Cronenberg's "Shivers" (probably not for the faint of heart, although I haven't watched it yet); "World War Z" with Brad Pitt; Will Smith in "I Am Legend;" and Ingmar Bergman's "Shame," in which war rather than contagion drives a couple into "enforced leisure." Lane (who is himself recovering from Covid-19) concludes his article by recommending not a film but Tintoretto's painting, "Saint Roch Healing the Plague Victims," in which caregivers and victims share equal billing. As he says, "No drama of disease, however monstrous, is complete without the labor of love."

This is the last issue of the Grapevine until the September 2020 issue. Hopefully that time will find all of us healthy, life will be approaching a return to normal, and we will be able to look forward to another rewarding and productive year as the Healdsburg branch of AAUW.