

2020-2021 HEALDSBURG AAUW YEAR END REPORT

This difficult year has been marked by Covid, wildfires, and severe drought, yet we persisted in our dedication to our mission and each other.

Our goal for the year was to establish a Diversity Task Force to identify barriers and seek opportunities to be more inclusive of individuals in our community. Due to the extended period of Covid restrictions, we were unable to pursue this goal, as in person outreach into our community was not possible. Future efforts will start again when appropriate.

UPDATES FROM DIRECTORS:

Communications: Laura Tyler

- Initiated Scholarship Success Stories feature in the Grapevine. Thank you, Mickey Sarquis.
- Continued popular Membership profile feature in the Grapevine.
- Rebecca West has signed on as Publicity Coordinator.
- Sally Tischler has become our new webmaster under the expert tutelage of Nancy Haiston.

Fundraising: Barbara Epstein

- Forum net income remained at previous year levels due to the excellent leadership of Celeste and her committee.
- Direct Donations were at an all time high.
- Tech Trek: In person camp was cancelled and virtual camp expenses were lower, leaving our reserve for summer of \$5.8.
- Homes Tour Spring 2021 was canceled due to Covid. The Fundraising Committee is working on a future reinvention of this activity.

Membership: Patty McHugh

- Membership has dropped mostly due to Covid restrictions on activities and members leaving the area because of recurring wildfires.
- We were unable to have a Buddy program this year but did have a new member Zoom meeting in March 2021.
- We will be working to increase renewals and encourage new members in 2021-2022.

Mission Based Programs: Beth Wolk

- Under Covid restrictions our members were unable to volunteer at school sites. The goal was to do as much as possible under those parameters and to assist the school sites in a limited capacity.
- **READING ROCKS:** Gail Wright and Diane Bartleson arranged to read with students virtually for the last half of the school year.
- Diane Bartleson ordered and delivered books to every first-grade student and teacher at Healdsburg Elementary, West side, and Geyserville schools under the Holiday Book Program.
- **Holiday Gifts for Teachers:** thanks to the generosity of members, Beth purchased \$10 Starbucks gift cards for every staff member at West Side, Healdsburg Elementary, and NorthBay Children's Center. Principals of the elementary schools received \$50 Amazon gift cards to purchase school supplies.

Public Policy: Rebecca LaLonde

- **October and November 2020:** Attended Advocacy Meeting with Mike McGuire. Sponsored Cloverdale and Healdsburg City Council forums. Provided the committee education on 501c3 and 501c4 rules, regulation, and advocacy.
- **January 2021:** Provided education on the League of Women Voters' High School virtual program on Civics and Voter topics.
- **March 2021:** Sent postcards re: Women's History Month to all active AAUW Healdsburg members.
Recognition of Equal Pay Day proclamations were sent to Healdsburg, Cloverdale, and Windsor.
- Committee members attended AAUW CA. Lobby Day training and Lobby Day to and advocated for AAUW sponsored legislation with two Assembly Members.

Scholarships: Mickey Sarquis

- Led by Winky Merrill the HighSchool Scholarship Committee has selected 12 recipients, each to receive \$2,000: Seven from Healdsburg, four from Windsor, and one from Cloverdale. The young woman from Cloverdale will also receive the \$750 Perez Family Scholarship. This is Winky's last year as Chair of this committee. We thank her for her extraordinary leadership and dedication.
- The Santa Rosa Junior College Re-entry Scholarship Committee lead by Jane Martin has selected nine SRJC graduates, each to receive a \$4,000 scholarship. Additional funding was provided from a private, targeted member's donation.
- In August 2020, the Al Garren Scholarship Committee led by Kay Kohler awarded 7 renewal scholarships at \$4,000 each. The next round of selections will be announced later in August 2021.

- Many thanks to our Scholarship Committee members: Julie Hanamura, Beth Wolk, Diane Bartleson, Maureen Keene, Phil Wright, Cathy Chiminello, Sue Finan, Charlene Luks, and of course Winky, Jane, and Kay.
- The first Scholarship Success Stories article was published in the May 2021 Grapevine. Look for more to come.

Social Activities: Kathryn Henderson

- Due to Covid in person social activities were halted.
- With Celeste's skillful Zoom guidance, we met in December for a Mingle Jingle Holiday event. Both Winter Forum professors were present to tell us about upcoming Forum classes. Turn out was strong and enthusiasm high.
- Kathryn has organized relational Coffee Klatches providing opportunities to meet outside in small groups.
- Our Branch Annual Meeting and Installation of our new Board of Directors occurred in May via Zoom.

STEM: Karla Rosen

- Tech Trek: With the pandemic the residential Tech Trek program was replaced by 3 five-day Virtual Tech Trek Camps in June and July. Our Branch will send 13 girls to Virtual Camp: 5 girls from Washington Junior High in Cloverdale, 1 from Geyserville New Tech Academy, 5 from Healdsburg Junior High, and 2 from Cali Calmecac in Windsor. Mickey Sarquis will be an instructor, Karla Rosen will be an Adult Build Coach and 4 Tech Trek Alumnae will be Near-Peer Social Coaches.
- Terrific Science Virtual Camp: When Tech Trek 2020 was canceled, Karla and Mickey scrambled and created Terrific Science Virtual Camp (**TSVC**), which was held in July 2020. Six of the nine girls selected for the canceled 2020 residential Tech Trek attended **TSVC**.
- Creation of Tech Trek Alumnae Group (**TTAG**) With Board approval GEMS has been replaced with TTAG. The program will be based on Soth Bay's TTAG program. Karla Rosen will chair this exciting new program.