

The Grapevine

November 2021

Volume 37, Number 3

President's Message



Here we are in November with no dangerous wildfires in our area this year. As rainy season starts (a lot of rain please), we leave this dangerous time with a big sigh of relief.

Have you noticed the feature box immediately following the President's Message? It will be a recurring feature with tips on how to navigate our AAUW website. Our webmaster, **Sally Tischler**, has been helping the board directors update their website areas. Check out the various tabs to become more knowledgeable about your branch members and activities.

Our annual end of year appeal will be mailed to you soon. As you know, COVID has caused the cancellation of our major fundraiser, the AAUW Healdsburg Homes Tour, two years in a row. Our Fundraising Director, **Dena Cochran**, and her committee are working on new opportunities for 2022, but we still need your generous contributions to continue funding our scholarship activities. Thank you for your generosity last year. I hope you will consider the same level of contribution this fall.

As vaccination levels rise, Sonoma County's level of COVID infection has dropped. In light of this improvement, Social Activities Director, **Kerry Weiner Elkind**, and her active committee continue to plan activities. You have already received a 'Save the Date' eblast for our holiday party at Marcia and Bob Fosberg's beautiful home. Please RSVP soon as the number of attendees is limited.

I hope you are all able to enjoy Thanksgiving Day with friends and family. My best wishes to you on this joyous occasion.

-Kate Van Ness

Do you want to know what hikes are taking place in November? Hiking information can be found on the AAUW Healdsburg website under the MEMBERSHIP header->Interest Groups->Hiking->then choose either longer or shorter hikes.

Mission-Based Programs



We've been busy and the need to advocate for women and girls has never been more urgent. Here are just a few of our advocacy efforts:

The freedom to vote is not a political issue—it is a Constitutional right.

Americans of all races, backgrounds, genders and zip codes have the same right to vote. The Freedom to Vote Act will restore federal protections gutted by the *Shelby County v. Holder* Supreme Court case and under attack from the wave of anti-voter bills sweeping the nation. This act will also modernize the ways in which voters access a secure and convenient process. **Tell your members of Congress to support the Freedom to Vote Act now!**

Paid leave passed the first big hurdle in the budget reconciliation process!

AAUW applauds the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee in their decision to approve universal paid family and medical leave during the budget reconciliation markup. While this historic policy advancement has taken a monumental step forward, our fight is far from over. **Join us in ensuring all workers have access to paid leave, child care and other critical infrastructure supports — act now!**

Access to critical health care should not depend on where someone lives.

We have long known that the day is coming when the Constitutional right to abortion will be challenged. While the Supreme Court of the United States has repeatedly confirmed this right since the *Roe vs. Wade* court decision in 1973, it has been systematically under attack for decades. States have enacted medically unnecessary restrictions and barriers making access inconsistent. The only answer now is Congressional action. **Join us to protect reproductive health and freedom!**

Today, LGBTQ+ individuals lack protections from discrimination in 29 states.

The Equality Act would solve that. It is incumbent upon the Senate to provide explicit protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in a number of key areas. It would update our civil rights laws to protect LGBTQ+ individuals across important areas of life including employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally-funded programs and jury service. Our nation's civil rights laws must be updated to protect all of us—no one should experience unfair treatment because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. **Each person who speaks out strengthens the demand for equality for all—urge your senator to stand up to discrimination by supporting the Equality Act.**

AAUW Action Network and Two-Minute Activist Tool: The cornerstone of AAUW's e-advocacy efforts, Action Network sends subscribers urgent email notices when their advocacy is needed most. With our Two-Minute Activist online tool, it takes no time to contact your legislators and make your voice heard. Anyone with an email address can subscribe. [Two-Minute Activist – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

-Rebecca LaLonde, Public Policy Director

Social Programs



AAUW FALL HAPPY HOUR SAVE THE DATE

ORSI Family Winery

November 4, 2021

5-7 PM

Details to follow



Wine N Dine

On the evening of Friday, September 17, Healdsburg AAUW held their first Wine N Dine dinner for 2021. Seven AAUW members hosted 33 members and spouses. Gardens, patios, and decks were the outdoor settings for the lovely evening meals. The hosts who generously offered their backyard surroundings for our September dinner included AAUW members **Dena Cochran, Judy Edmonds, Julie Hanamura, Liz Loebel, Charlene Luks, Carol Hazlett, and Diane Burnley.**

Everyone enjoyed an evening of delicious foods, delectable wines, and interesting, fun and often “getting to know each other” conversations.

Here are photos from two of the gatherings.



Our next Wine N Dine is scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 2022, so please place this date on your calendar. The event is open to vaccinated members and their guests; we always welcome new hosts and guests. More information about this event will be in the January Grapevine.

Diane Burnley and Violet Nelson, Co-chairs of the Wine N Dine committee

It is that time of the year again!

Healdsburg AAUW

Holiday Party

12/10 starting at 4 PM
2240 Toyon Drive
Healdsburg.

(Home of Marcia Fosberg)

Drinks and Appetizers will be served

\$30 per person.

There is a limit of **80** people (couples welcome).

RSVP Mary Fitzgerald

(Mmilfeit@yahoo.com) **before 12/1/2021.**

Mail checks (payable to AAUW)

to Mary Fitzgerald, 446 Tee Court,
Healdsburg 95448.

COVID vaccination verification required

Instead of shopping for school supplies, this year attendees are asked for a voluntary donation of \$10. Beth Wolk and Cathy Mock will then purchase gift cards for the schools. If you would like to contribute, please make the check out to AAUW. Thank you.





High School Scholarships

One of the wonderful things for which AAUW Healdsburg raises funds for is scholarships that are given to students from Windsor, Healdsburg, Geyserville, and Cloverdale for students who have been accepted at a four-year college or university. We gave out twelve \$2,000 scholarships to deserving students who have begun their first semester for the 2021-22 school year. It is due to the generosity of our members and the incredibly hard work of the chairs and committee members who work on fundraising that we were able to offer these scholarships, despite a pandemic! The students are very grateful to our organization and each one has written a thank you note expressing their thoughts. I will be featuring others in the future.

-Beth **Wolk**, High School Scholarship Chair

"Dear Healdsburg AAUW Fund,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity of being able to receive this scholarship. I am writing to thank you for your generous \$2,000 Healdsburg AAUW Scholarship. I was very appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am majoring in Cellular and Molecular Biology. I plan to continue on to med school after graduating from San Francisco State University in hopes of becoming a pediatrician. I am currently a freshman in college carrying 19 units, and planning on graduating in 2025. After graduation I want to be in med school, and thanks to you I am one step closer to that goal.

You have relieved my financial burden by granting me this scholarship, allowing me to concentrate more on the most essential element of school: studying. Your kindness has motivated me to help others and contribute to the community. I hope that one day, like you, I will be able to assist kids in achieving their goals."



Sincerely,
Aleah Garcia-Gonzalez



If you are aware of any member who is ill, has had an operation or an accident, has passed away or had a close family member pass away, please notify Heidi Blumenthal so that a card can be sent to the person or family from AAUW. Email - heidiblu@aol.com. Phone - 707 433 7445.

The Grapevine is published online each month, except in July and August. Please submit articles and announcements in WORD or PAGES in Calibri font 12 pt, justified, and photographs in Jpeg by the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which you want them included. Remember that the Grapevine is available to the general public, so be cautious about including your personal information. Send to Donna Riley at dlrdlh@gmail.com.

