

The Grapevine

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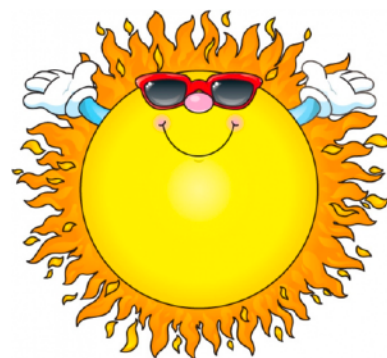


President's Message

Is it possible that two years have flown by? With wildfires, drought, political upheaval, and COVID, it has often felt like living on a roller coaster or balancing precariously on a seesaw. Yet during this time, our board of directors and amazing members have kept our eyes on our mission while still having fun.

I'm pleased to announce that our membership numbers are growing again and that our financial position remains strong. We are awarding scholarships to girls and women because we have managed to raise funds effectively. We are sending girls in person to Tech Trek camp this year. We are starting volunteer activities in schools again. We are learning to carry on in the face of COVID surges and other roadblocks.

Thank you board of directors. Thank you stalwart members. It has been an honor to be your president for the past two years. Following is our Branch Year End Report. We could not have accomplished so much without your active involvement.



2021-2022 Healdsburg AAUW Year End Report

This has been another difficult year, marked by disruptive COVID surges and severe drought. Thankfully, there were no local wildfires in summer/fall 2021. Our Branch goals were to add 40 new members this year. Due to interrupted meeting opportunities, we did not meet that goal, but we did add 16 members. Our second goal was to reinvigorate our Spring Fundraising efforts and raise at least \$20,000. Under Fundraising Director **Dena Cochran**'s leadership, this goal was exceeded.

Highlights:

Communications: **Laura Tyler**

We added a Tech Tip to each month's Grapevine newsletter, highlighting answers to commonly asked questions about our website. Our [Scholarship Successes](#) tab on our homepage continues to feature inspirational stories from our scholarship recipients. **Laura Tyler** will assume the role of Webmaster going forward.



Fundraising: **Dena Cochran**

Direct donations were once again record-breaking. Thank you to all who so generously donated.

The Madrona Reception and Luncheon Event sold out. Many thanks to Chair **Julia Graves** and to **Lee Sigler** and **Julie Hanamura** for managing ticket sales.

Mary Barsony, our Tech Trek fundraiser, raised the funds needed to send eight girls to Tech Trek in person camp at Sonoma State.

Membership: **Janice Sexton**

We added 16 new members this year, bringing our current branch membership to 185.

The membership application has been revised.

A New Member Interests spreadsheet has been sent to all interest leaders to encourage outreach to new members.

Mission Based Programs: **Beth Wolk**

Resumption of in-person volunteer programs such as Reading Rocks is anticipated soon.

Books have been donated to all first grade students at Healdsburg Elementary, West Side, and Geyserville Elementary Schools.

Gift cards to purchase needed school supplies were given to principals at Healdsburg Elementary, Fitch Mountain, and West Side Schools.

Public Policy: **Rebecca La Londe**

October 2021 - 200 Get Out the Vote postcards were mailed.

December 2021 - Attended National Public Policy educational event on advocacy.

March 2022 - Attended a Zoom presentation in celebration of Women's History Month.

April 2022 - Committee members attended Lobby Week training. They were assigned to meet with Assembly Member Jim Woods.

Scholarships: Julie Hanamura

We received 45 High School Scholarship applications and have chosen 15 recipients to receive \$2,000 each.

The Santa Rosa Junior College Re-entry Scholarships were awarded to 7 recipients at \$4,000 each.

The Al Garren Fund awarded 3 scholarships at \$4,000 each.

Many thanks to Scholarship Committee Chairs **Beth Wolk, Jane Martin, Kay Kohler** and their hard working committee members.

Social Activities: Kerry Weiner Elkind

Due to a September COVID surge, our September 2021 Kickoff was canceled, but we did have a Zoom meeting, with many "What's New" comments from participants.

Later in the year, we were able to enjoy numerous activities dodging COVID: Summer Picnic, Happy Hours, Lunch Bunch, Christmas Party, Wine and Dine, and our Spring Branch Meeting.

Thanks to Kerry and her determined committee who made these events a reality.

STEM: Patty McHugh

Tech Trek 2021: The residential program was canceled, but we sent 13 girls to Virtual Tech Trek.

Tech Trek 2022: In person camp has been confirmed. With **Nancy Haiston** and **Linda Clark's** leadership, eight girls have been selected.

TTAG (Tech Trek Alumni Group): There is on-going activity to establish this program in our area.

-Kate Van Ness, President

Tech Tip

Are you wondering what's going on in the branch? Check out the calendar. In the upper right corner of the home page, you'll find activities for the current day. Click on the Google calendar icon to see planned events for the month and beyond.

Year-end Meeting and Picnic and New Board Introduction

A grand time was had by all at the branch year-end meeting and picnic. Delicious food was shared with plenty of compliments to the many chefs. Appreciation and acknowledgments were made to last year's board members, and our new board of directors was approved and announced. Below are some pictures of member attendees. Pictures are available upon request.

-Donna Riley, Grapevine Editor

HEALDSBURG AAUW

The 2022-23 Board of Directors

President : Laura Tredinnick

Vice President : Nancy Jane Andrews

Secretary : Donna Campoverde

Treasurer : Lee Sigler

Past President : Kate Van Ness

Communications Director : Kim Alexander

Fundraising Director : Dena Cochran

Membership Director : Janice Sexton

Mission Based Programs Directors : Beth Wolk and Cathy Mock

Public Policy Director : Tyra Benoit

Scholarships Director : Julie Hanamura

Social Activities Director : Kerry Weiner Elkind

STEM Director : Patty McHugh





Social Programs

**SAVE THE DATE!
Please put it on your calendar NOW!**

**Healdsburg AAUW
announcing "Summer Wine 'n Dine"
Sunday, June 26, 2022**

More details to follow early in June

Mission Based Programs

2022 Tech Trek Camp

The 2020 Teck Trek Camp was canceled and then reappeared via Zoom in 2021. The great news is that the 2022 camp will be in person and our campers will be back on campus. This year we are very happy to tell you that our Branch is sending eight campers to Sonoma State University (Rohnert Park) from June 19 – 25. The girls (and Dorm Moms) stay in dorms on campus for the entire week.

For those new to Tech Trek (an AAUW National program run by the individual states), it is a week-long residential camp that focuses on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) classes and activities.

The girls who attend are transitioning from 7th to 8th grade. Our Branch works with 5 local middle schools to select the girls who will attend. This year, 18 girls were recommended by their teachers and, through the application and interview process, that number was narrowed down to our 8 campers and one alternate.

The selection process was initiated in late fall and finalized when the names were submitted in April. After finalization, the team worked with the school and parents to make sure that all the necessary forms were submitted. A “Meet & Greet” gathering was held in May so that campers and parents could meet each other and interface with Teck Trek alumni, members of our board, teachers, and members of our selection committee.

I’d like to give a big **Thank You** to the team that made it happen this year: **Barbara Epstein, Diane Meyers, Sue Finan, Maureen McCalla and Linda Clark**. And, I’d like to give a special shout out to **Linda Clark** who covered for me during the 3 weeks I was out of the country.

-**Nancy Haiston**, Teck Trek Chair

In-School Volunteer Activities

Despite the obstacles brought on by the pandemic, we were able to continue some of our programs, largely due to the dedication of **Diane Burnley** and **Cathy Mock**. Diane organized the holiday book donations to all first graders at Healdsburg Elementary, West Side, and Geyserville Elementary as well as a special book gift for the classroom and teachers. As soon as volunteers were permitted, Diane and **Gail Wright** resumed their work with the teachers for whom they have volunteered for many years. Cathy Mock organized Holiday Gifts for Teachers, which was so needed for our local schools, day care, and preschool serving low-income students. Next year we hope to resume all of the Mission Based programs.

-**Beth Wolk**, Director of Mission Based Program

Public Policy

(Hillary Kambour solicited member feedback about the significance of Title IX in their lives. What follows is the first report with others to follow in the following months - Donna Riley, Grapevine Editor)



How Far Have We Come?

Janice Sceales graduated from high school in Stockton in 1959 where she was in a class called GAA (Girls Athletic Association) which was held the last class period of the day. This class had “play days” once a month where her team played in a round robin against other schools in town. The GAA class always had a female teacher.

Janice majored in physical education at U.C. Davis, received her teaching credential, and when her family moved to Healdsburg, she substituted as a P.E. teacher in the local schools.

When Jenean Bingham was in 7th and 8th grades in Healdsburg (1972-73), the only sports available to her were community track and field and youth soccer. There were no organized sports for girls at school. Her mother had to drive her to Santa Rosa to play on a girl soccer team.

When in 1978-79, there still was no organized girl soccer in Healdsburg, Janice, her husband, and others started a youth soccer league.

Meanwhile, Jenean was allowed to be on the boys JV soccer team. Later women’s track and field, basketball, volleyball and softball were available to Healdsburg girls in the Sonoma County League but the girls were not allowed to play at Rec Park where the boys had all of their games.

In 1979, Healdsburg High hired their first female coach for the women’s varsity basketball team. The girls were allowed to practice in the “big” gym but usually late at night after the boys teams had finished. The girls’ basketball team, coached by Sue Hardaway, became a power in the league.

Jenean went to the JC and then on to UC Davis to study physical education, all the while running track and field. There she became an athletic trainer. After receiving her credential, Jenean started coaching at Healdsburg High, became a P.E. teacher and, in 2001, she was hired as the school’s athletic director. Jenean continued to lobby for more female P.E. teachers and coaches at the school. By 2010, Jenean was the only female P.E. teacher at HHS. She continued to support women’s sports.

Jenean moved to Windsor High in 2015 where she ended her coaching career. Reflecting on these years, Jenean says that “Title IX meant everything to me.” Because of this, she actively lobbied for more female teachers and coaches to support, mentor and teach athletics and fitness to Healdsburg’s girls.

Jenean and Janice continue to believe that allowing all women a chance to compete in sports is an important way for them to develop confidence in their strength and abilities.

As of today Healdsburg Schools do not have a female physical education teacher.

Scholarship

High School Scholarship Committee

Thanks to the generous donations we received as well as the amazing fundraising that took place this year, we were able to offer 15 \$2,000 scholarships to high school students from Cloverdale (2), Windsor (3), and Healdsburg (10). We had 45 amazing applicants, and it was very difficult to narrow it down. Thank you to **Julie Hanamura**, **Debbie Potsmesil**, and **Winky Merrill** for their help and dedication to this heartwarming and difficult task.

Here is a thank you note from Kathryn Conrad, a Healdsburg High School student headed to college. She is a three-sport athlete, has a part time job, volunteers at the Food Pantry, and has a 4.21 GPA. Our scholarship will help her continue her education in environmental studies and economics.

Dear AAUW Scholarship Committee

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient for your award. I am very eager to be continuing my education at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and it is your generosity that makes it possible.

With much appreciation,

Kathryn Conrad

-Beth Wolk, High School Scholarship Chair



Scholarship Success Stories

Karen Arcado's Story

2016 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC Scholarship

An Educational Journey



In May of 2016, I graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College with my Associate Degree in Nursing. In June of that very same year, I began attending Sonoma State University. It had always been my goal to further my education by earning a bachelor's degree. I knew this additional knowledge and education would open more doors for me in my chosen career.

The Healdsburg AAUW branch graciously awarded me a scholarship to attend Sonoma State University in the amount of \$4000. This was instrumental in paying for my tuition and allowing me to focus on school and raising my four young children. Without this support, I would not have been able to attend Sonoma State, nor would I have earned a four-year degree.

In May 2017, I graduated from Sonoma State's Collaborative Nursing Education Continuum Model Post Licensure program with my bachelor's degree. I fulfilled my dream to become the first in my family to attend and graduate from a four-year university. I began working as a nurse at an acute care hospital on the Medical Surgical Unit in a socio-economically disadvantaged community, where my education makes a lasting impact on the health of my patients and their families.

In April of 2018 I began teaching part time as a clinical instructor for Pacific Union College. I provided support to the nursing students. I discovered a love for teaching.

In February of 2020 I took a position working in the Intensive Care Unit. It had been my dream to become an ICU Nurse, care for the sickest patients, provide comfort and healing. After just one month of orientation in the ICU, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and my world turned upside down. For two years I worked in the trenches, caring for very sick, isolated, and scared patients. It was heartbreaking to watch many succumb to a ruthless virus. The stress of worrying about bringing home the virus to my children was unbearable, but I carried on, putting my own fears aside to be there for my patients.

In October of 2021, I took a position working as a school nurse for the local school district. This was a welcome change. In order to qualify for the position, the State of California requires I have a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Next year I plan to attend Sacramento State University to earn my School Nurse Credential. It is interesting how experiences in life change the trajectory of our future. I thought I wanted to work in the ICU, but now I realize I can make a bigger impact working with students in kindergarten through twelfth grades. I work in a socio-economically disadvantaged community, providing education, preventive and medical care to students who otherwise do not have access to resources. I see the positive impact I am making for our future generation, and I know I am exactly where I am meant to be. I love what I do and come to work each day with love and gratitude.

I am grateful to the Healdsburg AAUW for awarding me a scholarship, believing in me, helping me to overcome poverty and adversity to pursue my dream. The impact you have is far reaching, as it not only affects me and my children, but each of my patients and all the students that I help along the way. Thank you for your generosity.

- Karen Arcado



Thank you everyone!! It's been a rewarding year in spite of all of the difficulties we have encountered. It is through resilience and camaraderie that we persevere. See you in September!!

-Donna Riley, Grapevine Editor

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 dldrldh@gmail.com

