

# The Grapevine

June 2023

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## President's Message

I recently returned from a trip to the Netherlands (where I found the perfect shoes) and five Balkan countries. It's amazing when we realize that the Balkans were under Communist control until December of 1991. They have made great progress in 32 years, and it was a reminder to me of how free we have been for so long.

Again this year our membership numbers are increasing due to personal outreach from our members. **Reminder: If you like AAUW, don't keep it a secret! Encourage your friends and acquaintances to join.**

Our financial position remains good even though we are facing fundraising challenges without the Homes Tour. We received two grants and a surprise bequest from one of our former members. We also added a Grant Writing Group to our Fundraising arsenal. As a result, we are awarding scholarships to girls and women at the same levels as in the past.

Tech Trek remains an important program; we are sending seven girls to Tech Trek camp at Sonoma State this summer. In addition, we have two branch members teaching Tech Trek classes. Reading Rocks is going strong, as is our Future Prep Program in the High School. We were able to support Early Childhood Development by purchasing teaching materials focused on early reading.

The Public Policy Committee has been active this year, writing "Get Out the Vote" letters, holding a Candidate Forum in October, an Equal Pay Day in March, and participating in the Climate Fest in April. Whew!

We are making a difference in our community and living up to our local motto: "We Change Lives!"

For more detail, see our Branch Year End Report in this issue of the Grapevine.

Personally, I have learned many things this year about this organization and continue to learn each day. Thank you board and branch members for your assistance, insight, and involvement.

**Laura Tredinnick, President, Healdsburg AAUW**



## End of Year Report

### Our goals for this year were:

- ***Develop a long-term fundraising plan*** – We have added a Grant Writing Team to our fundraising efforts. The long-term plan includes grant writing as well as a Spring Event.
- ***Strengthen the new-member Buddy Program with a chair and committee*** – This program is well underway with **Yvonne Schell** as chair and a large committee of buddies.
- ***Create a data/records management system*** – The Records Management System is being created using Google Workspace. We already have all Branch organizational documents uploaded and are also using it for keeping records of our Branch and Fund minutes.
- ***Create an Outreach Chair Board Position and Committee*** – Mid-year it was determined that the work of the Public Policy Committee was already achieving their goal and as a result, it was not necessary to create an Outreach Chair Position and Committee. Specifically, the Public Policy Committee has increased our outreach to such organizations as Corazon Healdsburg, the Raven, the Healdsburg City Council, AV Film Festival, and the Climate Action Committee in addition to making connections with other AAUW Branches.

### • HIGHLIGHTS

#### Communications – Kim Alexander

The Communications team was busy highlighting Healdsburg AAUW activities. We've kept you informed through the Grapevine and our eblasts, while our Publicity and Social Media keep the community at large updated. We've promoted Forum classes, Public Policy events, Tech Trek, social gatherings, and Mission Based Programs. Scholarship Success and New Member profiles introduce us to our expanding community. The Website provides 24/7 information on all the chapter's business. We enjoy keeping everyone connected. Thanks to: **Kim Brown/Donna Riley**-Grapevine publishers, **Judy Edmonds, Ronie Reily, and Dyan Urban**-Grapevine editors, **Jess Cress**-Social Media, **Liz Loebel**-Constant Contact, **Laura Tyler**-website, **Anna Laura Jansma**-Publicity and **Holly Schatz**-Corresponding Secretary.

#### Fundraising – Dena Cochran

Early in the year, we received a \$24,000 grant from PSST (Public School Success Team), a first for us. Our end-of-year letter brought us over \$31,000 of much-needed scholarship money including a \$15,000 after-life gift. With **Mary Barsony** leading, we again raised sufficient funds to send eight girls to Tech Trek camp this coming summer. We decided not to do a Homes Tour in 2024, but we will pursue an event similar to last year's reception and luncheon at The Madrona which netted about \$25,000. A Grants Committee has been established and will seek additional grants in the coming year.

#### Interest Groups – Kate Van Ness

Our interest groups remain a vital part of our branch activities. We have three active Great Decisions groups, six book groups, and two hiking groups. **Linda Clark** coordinates the Bridge groups.



## End of Year Report (Cont'd)

### Membership – Janice Sexton

From July 2022 thru June 2023, 19 new and two former members have joined the Branch. New members have been recruited by President **Laura Tredinnick**, **Kim Brown**, **Carol Beattie**, **Lucinda Powers**, **Ronnie Devitt**, **Mary Fitzgerald**, **Diane Burnley**, **Linda Wilkie**, **Judith Olney**, **Dena Lash**, **Donna Campoverde**, **Ty Benoit**, **Carol Noack** and **Donna Riley**, as well as through our donors and activities. Several members have left—some have moved from the area, others did not renew, one is deceased. Our current total membership of 184, therefore, remains unchanged from the previous year. Both the Buddy Program and New Member get-togethers were suspended during the pandemic, but thanks to Buddy Coordinator **Yvonne Schell**, both have been reactivated. She has increased the size of the Buddy pool, so most new members now have two buddies. New member, **Carol Beattie**, is now partnering with **Hillary Kambour** to share the new member profiling duties.

### Mission Based Programs – Beth Wolk, Cathy Mock

Reading Rocks at Westside and Healdsburg Elementary had volunteers in all first and second-grade classrooms. Thanks to **Diane Burnley** and **Pat Bertapelle** for coordinating this. We gave books to all first-grade students and teachers at both schools. Checks were also given to the Principals at Healdsburg Elementary, Fitch Mountain Elementary, and Westside to buy school supplies for holiday gifts for teacher appreciation. Two Future Prep events (career panels) were held at Healdsburg High School, thanks to the coordination of **Caroline Mercer** and **Dena Lash**. We were also able to support Early Childhood Education by funding “Handwriting Without Tears” teaching materials using funds from the PSST grant.

### Public Policy – Tyra Benoit

Your Public Policy Committee offered three public events this past year. When we heard that the League of Women Voters would not be doing a candidate forum in Healdsburg, we arranged one in collaboration with the Raven Theater in early October 2022. All council candidates were present and co-moderators were **Laura Tredinnick**, our President, and **Marcy Flores**, Interim CEO of Corazon Healdsburg. In March 2023, we collaborated with AVFest and did an Equal Pay Day film and panel discussion that sold out. Mayor Ariel Kelley participated on the panel and issued a proclamation earlier in the month honoring AAUW at the Healdsburg City Council meeting. Passalacqua and Bannister Wines helped to sponsor the event. Finally, we had a booth at the Earth Day Climate Fest in April 2023 focused on the impact of climate change on women around the world. Special thanks to all public policy members for their hard work this year!

### Scholarships – Julie Hanamura

In Spring 2023, Healdsburg AAUW again awarded scholarships to outstanding young women graduating from Healdsburg, Windsor, Cloverdale and Geyserville high schools who will be attending a four-year college in the Fall. \$46,000 in high school scholarships were awarded this year. This includes \$24,000 provided through a generous grant from the JNR Family Foundation. The evaluators of high school applications were: **Julie Hanamura**, **Debbie Potmesil**, **Winkie Merrill**, and **Beth Wolk**.



## End of Year Report (Cont'd)

The Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) Re-entry Scholarships have also been awarded this Spring. These scholarships are for re-entry women graduating from SRJC and continuing education at a four-year institution. This year, scholarships totaling \$16,000 were provided through this program. SRJC third-year evaluators were: **Maureen Keefe, Jane Martin, and Phil Wright.**

The Al Garren scholarships provide our re-entry scholarship awardees the opportunity to apply for a second year of funding. These scholarships are awarded during the summer. We will provide an update in the September Grapevine. Fourth-year evaluators will be **Kay Kohler, Cathy Chiminello, Sue Finan, Charlene Luks, and Phil Wright.**

Our scholarship programs can't exist without the continued support of our members through donations and fundraising events. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these deserving scholars.

### **Social Activities – Kerry Weiner Elkind**

The Summer Picnic, coordinated by **Dena Lash**, started off our season. The Fall kickoff at the home of **Marian Van Alyea** was well-attended. Branch Goals were announced, but most of the meeting was a chance to get back in touch with each other. The Happy Hour Committee (**Neita Comings** and **Carol Hazlett**) and Wine 'N Dine Committee (**Diane Burnley** and **Cindy Powers**) along with the Lunch Bunch Committee (**Linda Clark, Sue Finan, Maria Lucidi**) were busy organizing social events throughout the year.

For the first time, the holiday party was held at a winery tasting room. Ali Smith Story, the owner of Smith Story Winery, was a generous host with a lovely venue. Many thanks to **Holly Schatz** and **Pat Bertapelle** for putting the finishing touches on this event. The year-end celebration was held at the home of **Jan Stanley.**

### **STEM – Patty McHugh**

Tech Trek: In 2023, our branch was fortunate to be allocated eight Tech Trek camper slots. Chair **Nancy Haiston** and the Tech Trek Selection Team spent months working with school contacts, receiving and reviewing applications, and in March interviewing candidates and making camper selections. This year, Sonoma State University campus will host two separate week-long camps. Four campers will attend June 18-24 and three campers will attend July 16-22. One camper has dropped out. For those new to AAUW, Tech Trek is a week-long STEM camp for 7th grade girls.

Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG): Co-chairs **Karla Rosen** and **Diane Meyers** have been working this year on researching and developing a framework for a Healdsburg TTAG group. An initial TTAG start-up meeting was held in April with several TT alumnae girls and future meetings are planned. TTAG is an opportunity for TT alumnae to work with AAUW advisors to plan and execute educational, college preparatory, and just-for-fun TTAG-only and community outreach events. In 2022, TTAG officially became part of the AAUW California Tech Trek program and meets AAUW's broader mission to advance gender equality for women and girls.





## Social Activities

### Spring Wine 'N Dine

Our Healdsburg AAUW Spring Wine 'N Dine Dinner was held on Saturday, April 15. This was our third Wine 'N Dine event for 2022-2023. Five Healdsburg AAUW members hosted, inviting AAUW guests into their homes. The dinners were coordinated by the hosts for all to enjoy. Our hosts who so generously shared their homes for this event included AAUW members **Jan Stanley**, **Julia Mattingly**, **Michelle Regan**, and co-hosts **Julia Graves** and **Alma O'Brien**.

Delicious seasonal foods and delectable wines were enjoyed, with a different menu served at each host home. Reports are that those attending really enjoyed not only spending some time getting to know one another but also having interesting and fun conversations with lots of merriment!

**Jan and Brent Stanley's Home**



**Tim and Michelle Regan's Home**



**Julia Mattingly's Home**



**Julia Graves' Home**  
**Co-hosted by**  
**Alma O'Brien**



## End of Year Celebration May 20, 2023

What a way to end the year with a celebration of all our accomplishments. Thank you to Jan Stanley for hosting — the weather and surroundings were perfect.

Saving the planet, one plate at a time



Thank you to our Board



Honoring Our 25 and 30 Year Board Members



## Mission Based Programs

This year, the High School Scholarship Committee was able to give out 16 scholarships to some deserving high school seniors from Healdsburg High School, Windsor High School, Geyserville New Tech Academy and Cloverdale High School. Ten young women received \$2,000 each from our branch fund. We partnered this year with the JNR Foundation who asked our branch to pick six young women to receive a \$4,000 scholarship. It was heartwarming to read the applications and discover how talented, strong, and intelligent the applicants were. Thank you to the members of the committee, **Julie Hanamura, Winky Merrill and Debbie Potsmesil.**



**Beth Wolk**, High School Scholarship Chair

## What's Happening with Tech Trek?

Tech Trek is happening and the girls are getting excited!! On May 16<sup>th</sup> we held a Meet & Greet at the Healdsburg Public Library for campers, parents, teachers, and Tech Trek donors. And the newly formed Tech Trek Alumni Group (TTAG) joined us. The TTAGers were there to help make the TT campers feel welcomed, answer their questions about the camp and tell them about 'life after Tech Trek'. Their presence was really well received and they did a great job.



We presented the TT girls with a 'goodie bag' filled with things such as books, notebooks, pens, water bottle, hand sanitizer, etc. This year our very nice backpacks to hold the 'goodies' were donated to us from Keysight Technologies.

The Trekkers checking out their backpacks. →

With Sonoma State University holding two camps, four of our Trekkers will attend the June camp and three will attend the July camp. Branch members can support the camps by volunteering a half day or more to help out in the classrooms and/or on field trips.

Selecting the girls to attend camp, hosting the Meet & Greet in the spring and Panel Discussion in the Fall requires a coordinated team effort. I'd like to give a big **Thank You** to the team that made it happen this year: **Charlene Luks, Anna-Laura Jansma, Judy Ivan, Maureen McCalla and Linda Clark.**



For those of you who are new to AAUW, Tech Trek is a week-long STEM camp for 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. To learn more about the program, go to our website: <https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net/stem/>

**Nancy Haiston**, Branch TT Coordinator  
[nhaiston@earthlink.net](mailto:nhaiston@earthlink.net)



## Meet Our New Members



### Stephanie Alves

Stephanie is a self-identified professional student, a true continuous learner. She attended San Jose State University (SJSU) from 1971 to 1976 and loved it so much that she earned enough credits for a double major and double minor! Her junior year took her abroad to Italy and found the experience of leaving the Bay Area a turning point in her confidence and was life changing. The friends she met while contributed to her experience and in 2023 they're celebrating their 50th year of friendship. She also met the love of her life, Frank Alves, a witty and most unconventional fraternity member while she was in a sorority where Stephanie became president during her senior year.

Upon graduation, Stephanie moved into the workforce. Her first job was located in the East Bay, where she worked in ladies undergarments and girdle fitting at a clothing store.

She eventually moved into a leadership position at a ship company while contemplating her next move with Frank back to the South Bay after 10 years of working. During this time, Stephanie acquired multiple credentials and became a full-time educator at Independence High School. Her focus was in Special Education and Social Studies. Frank was also a teacher at Independence High School and they alternated between classes, ultimately sharing many of the 11th and 12th grade students. The Alves Social Studies partnership was well known with much creative storytelling and some creative embellishments (by Frank). Ultimately, Stephanie and Frank helped start an "academy" at the high school similar to Career Technical Education for students that is still in place today. They wrote grants for students to find meaningful work alongside their studies. Upon retirement, they moved to Healdsburg in 2016 to be closer to her sister, Cyndie Pogue (also a new member of AAUW).

Her *raison d'être* as an educator is aligned with AAUW's mission, given her life's work. She also sees the value of services provided to young girls/women as she did in her high school days supporting AAUW's annual "Equal Pay Day" program. Service and volunteerism was modeled by her mom (who also lives in Sonoma County).

### Q & A

#### What is your version of play?

Play in the kitchen, find innovative recipes for preserving food, and teach preserving! (Sounds like Steph has gone right back to her passion) Oh, and play in the garden too.

#### Your favorite woman author(s)?

Louise Perry mysteries. I've read all of them! I also binge on historical biographies about women where light was not shed on them in history (i.e. Eleanor Aquitaine who gave birth to four kings or Queen Isabella who snuck bread to the poor).



## Meet Our New Members (Cont'd)



### Carolyn Wright

Carolyn is not a newcomer to Healdsburg. She and her husband purchased a “retirement” home in 2009 even though she had not yet retired as a pediatric physician serving San Francisco. As an undergraduate Stanford student, she studied in the social sciences and humanities completing her BA degree in psychology. It became clear that she wanted to help people further and thought psychiatry was a path forward. Enrolling in UC San Diego medical school, she was admitted with women being less than 20% of the enrolling candidates. Psychiatry was her primary medical focus. However, she found the role at that time (in the late 70s/80s) was prescribing medicine. Carolyn then felt she would change to pediatrics where in most cases “if something was broken – you can fix it” and also have the ability to build a long-term parent/child relationship.

Carolyn began her career at St. Mary's Pediatric Clinic which served low income families from South East Asia and Central America. After seven years, she entered private practice with Town and Country Pediatrics which was eventually acquired

by Stanford Children's Health. She worked full-time while raising her three children (now 41, 38 and 35) who live in Newport Beach, San Francisco and Mexico City.

Carolyn says she has spent her entire professional and personal life taking care of children and this continues to be her passion. When asked “why AAUW” her reply was: “it is an opportunity to continue to be of service to children and youth” combined with a new understanding of what STEM means today. Carolyn is pleased to see that AAUW does more than she expected! Young women are seeking careers in STEM, as she researched, but in the life sciences instead of just engineering, math and tech. She believes Tech Trek and training in spatial skills can help to address this gender disparity within STEM. Carolyn looks forward to being a TTAG advisor.

### Q & A

#### What would you say to next generation of young women?

“You can do anything you want” with preparation and some insights from others (mentors, teachers, and those who care).

#### What do you want the AAUW member to know?

I am looking forward to new friends as well as common and divergent interests.

#### Your Favorite Woman Author(s)?

Betty Friedman of *The Feminine Mystique*. She gave voice to millions of American women's frustrations with their limited gender roles and helped spark widespread public activism for gender equality. And anything by Gloria Steinem.

### **Alma Beltran's Story** **2018 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship**



I graduated from Cloverdale High School in 2018 and went on to the University of California, San Diego that fall. I'm delighted to report that I graduated in June 2022 with a major in molecular and cell biology and a minor in psychology, making me the first in my family to graduate from university. While I'm extremely proud of my accomplishments given I'm a first-generation college graduate, I want to admit that this was also a very difficult obstacle I had to overcome. I didn't know what college would require of me, how it would compare to my small-town high school, and who might be there when I needed help or guidance.

My first year was crucial and ended up laying the foundation for my future success. Thankfully, your scholarship allowed me time and resources for my studies, but also to explore different clubs and communities on campus, as well as focus on my mental health. I was able to build security in myself and in my place at UCSD, to form meaningful connections with my peers, and to create friendships with those in similar situations to myself. Many don't realize how hard this can be for students who don't have the financial security to not work while being in university, how draining it can be after a shift and not have the energy to put into building your community or to put energy into yourself. The financial security provided by your scholarship gave me more than just money. It allowed me the opportunity to explore paths I would have been unable to otherwise. It provided space and a cushion to make mistakes and grow from them rather than feeling that one small mistake could be the end of your opportunity.

As I continued through college there was, of course, a constant challenge to balance my studies with work, but I was successful in doing so because of the foundation you provided that first year. In my junior and senior years, I worked in an immunology lab (Bradley Lab) at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Institute in La Jolla which allowed me to support myself while also gaining experience in my field. After graduation, I completed a harvest internship at Rodney Strong Winery where I worked in the quality control and production lab providing me additional valuable experience in my field.

I am extremely grateful for the scholarship I received and can attest to how much of a difference it can make. THANK you so very much.

## How we change lives!

As we come to the end of another active year in our branch, take a minute to read some of the inspiring stories from our scholarship recipients. Click on the **red** Scholarship Successes button on the right side of the home page to remember why we do what we do.



Happy June! The days are getting longer and warmer and I have been enjoying the beautiful colors popping up everywhere, including my garden. This reminds me that The Grapevine will be taking a summer break and will be back in September. Remember to submit your articles no later than August 15. In the meantime, have a wonderful and relaxing summer....**Kim Brown**

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 Holly Schatz so that a card can be sent from Healdsburg AAUW. Email: [hollypschatz@gmail.com](mailto:hollypschatz@gmail.com). Phone: 415-305-4559

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