

The Grapevine

September 2023

Volume 39, Number 1

**Welcome Back Everyone!
The Fall Kickoff Was a Success!
August 24, 2023**



Thank you Judith Olney for hosting! The setting couldn't have been more perfect.



Karla Rosen updates on Tech Trek and TTAG.



Welcome!



Honoring our members, 20 Years - Judy Edmonds; 50 Years - Charlotte Garner



Inducting our board into the new year. President, Laura Tredinnick; Vice President, Nancy Jane Andrews; Treasurer, Julie Hanamura; Communications Director, Kim Alexander; Fundraising Director, Dena Cochran; Scholarships Director, Kerry Wiener Elkind; Membership Director, Janice Sexton; Mission Based Programs, Cathy Mock; Social Activities Director, Linda Clark; Past President Kate Van Ness. Not pictured: DEI & Public Policy, Tyra Benoit; Secretary, Donna Campoverde; STEM Director Patty McHugh



President's Message



Welcome back everyone!

I hope you had a chance to relax and enjoy the summer as I did. I find that not only does travel expand my mind and horizons, but it vastly improves my appreciation for this beautiful area where we live.

Back to work

On August 14, our board met to discuss our achievements, issues, and opportunities. From that, our goals are created for the upcoming year.

A notable achievement was that once again, thanks to our fundraising and some one-time grants awarded last year, we were able to award \$76,000 in scholarships.

One area that was disturbing was the realization that only 30% of our members contribute financially to support our organization's mission. Our social events and interest groups are fun, but the reason we exist is to support our community by advocating for social equity and awarding scholarships. We cannot do that without the full support of our members. Please consider supporting AAUW Healdsburg when you make your decisions about your end-of-year donations.

Another surprise was how difficult it is to find members to volunteer on our many committees. Committee work is a wonderful way to get to know other members and form real connections and friendships. I encourage each member to look at the Leadership Team listing on our website and look for a committee that may be of interest.

On to our goals for 2023-2024

- Improve end-of-year member donations from the current 30% to 75%.
- Support a semi-annual action to promote DEI.
- Continue to develop a long-term fundraising plan.
- Develop a plan for the Speakers Series by December 31, and implement it by early 2024.
- Pursue possible development of new interest groups such as Art, Garden, Mahjong, and Movie.

By the time you read this, we will have held our Fall Kickoff Party. I'm looking forward to another fun and successful year with all of you.

Laura Tredinnick, President, Healdsburg AAUW



Mission Based Programs

Mission Based Programs consist of committees that work to support our community, particularly in education for students in preschool through high school.

Future Prep and High School Career Events

Future Prep is AAUW's volunteer program at Healdsburg High School to help students explore career choices and understand the pathway, education, and life skills necessary to attain that career. **Dena Lash** and **Stephanie Alves** are chairs of this committee. If you are interested in helping, please contact them. Aside from Future Prep, AAUW members are asked to participate in a number of classroom activities, ranging from offering feedback on students' community service activities and as observers in the presentation of junior class internship projects. A call for volunteers will go out through Constant Contact for these events.

Reading Rocks

Reading Rocks is a program in which AAUW volunteers read one-on-one with primary students to improve their reading skills and build their confidence. If you are interested in participating, please contact **Diane Burnley**, the committee chair for Healdsburg Elementary or **Pat Bertapelle**, the committee chair at West Side School.

School Readiness

School Readiness is a committee with the mission to assist in making sure that all children are ready for kindergarten and school success, both socially/emotionally and academically. We usually help fund the preschool fair. If you are interested in this topic and have ideas, please let me know.

Holiday School Supplies

Each year we gather \$10 voluntary donations from our members in order to help our schools purchase supplies. We deliver a check right before winter break to say thank you for all that they do for students in our community. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let me know.

Cathy Mock, Director

Mission Based Programs (Cont'd)

Greetings, Tech Trek Enthusiasts!

We are thrilled to bring you the latest update on the remarkable journey of Tech Trekkers into a new program, Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG). TTAG emerged as a natural progression from Tech Trek's transformative program by creating a platform that dismantles stereotypes and allows these like-minded young women to connect, collaborate, and to envision themselves as future scientists, engineers, and innovators. It is a club exclusive to Tech Trek Alumnae that promotes STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) endeavors throughout grades 8 to 12. TTAG fosters the development of its members' leadership, teamwork, academic prowess, and commitment to giving back to our local communities.

Building a TTAG program involves several key steps to ensure its success. Initially, the TTAG Leadership Team, comprised of Tech Trek Alumnae and AAUW advisors, collaboratively established a mission statement, delineated the roles and responsibilities of board members, brainstormed an exciting array of future activities, and filled four out of the five board positions.

On June 11, we hosted our inaugural TTAG event—an Ice Cream Social. During this delightful gathering, we welcomed new members, engaged in a spirited game of cornhole, and savored ice cream slushes at Amy's Wicked Slush.



(TTAG Members from left to right. Valeria Rosas (Secretary), Briana Cortez Sierra, Alissa Sommer (Co-President), Joie Kozubal (Co-President), Rebecca Palubicki (Membership Coordinator), Melanie DeLuna.)

Tech Trek alumnae serve as mentors for the Tech Trek campers. In May, a group of four alumnae enthusiastically engaged with the 2023 campers and their parents during the pre-camp Meet and Greet session to portray the Tech Trek camper experience. In July, three alumnae worked as junior social and workshop coaches at Virtual Tech Trek (yes, Tech Trek now has both residential and virtual camps!). Looking

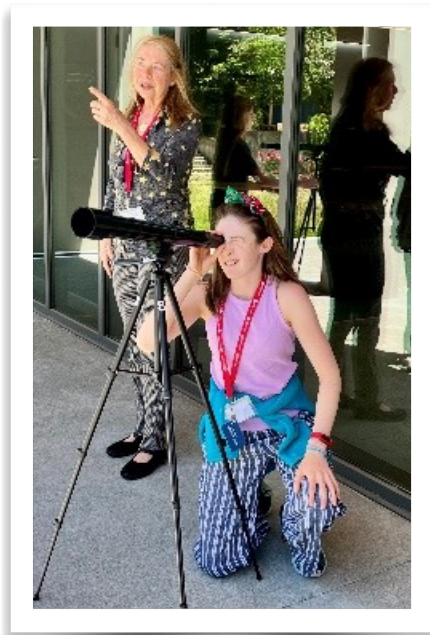
ahead to October, TTAGers will collaborate with the Tech Trek Selection Committee to orchestrate the annual Tech Trek Campers Panel Discussion.

On October 14, TTAG members will gather under the stars at Robert Ferguson Observatory in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park for a celestial adventure. If any member might be interested in TTAG please contact me.

Whew! And we are just getting started! I wish to extend my gratitude to the members of the TTAG Advisory Committee, **Diane Meyers** and **Carolyn Wright**. Their dedication, combined with their valuable guidance, has played a pivotal role in ensuring the success and vibrancy of our dynamic TTAG program. I would also like to give a special acknowledgment to **Mickey Sarquis**, a dedicated AAUW member, who created and taught the popular workshop "Exploring Water at Its Surface" during Virtual Tech Trek for the third consecutive year!

Karla Rosen

Mission Based Programs (Cont'd)



Successful Tech Trek Camp 2023!

Two successful Tech Trek camps have taken place this summer at Sonoma State University. Our Branch sent four girls to Camp Franklin (June 18-24) and three girls to Camp Johnson (July 23-29). I've received thank you notes from the girls who attended Camp Franklin and by the time this goes to print, I will have received thank you notes from the girls who attended Camp Johnson. When all are available, the thank you notes will be posted on the website. They are rewarding and fun to read.

Our Branch is actively involved in supporting this wonderful event. The 2023 Tech Trek Selection Committee, consisted of **Judy Ivan, Linda Clark, Anna-Laura Jansma, Charlene Luks and Maureen McCalla**. They did an amazing job working with five schools: Healdsburg JHS, Windsor JHS, Cloverdale JHS, Geyserville JHS and Cali Calmecac. It is a special and rewarding experience to interview these girls and often difficult to narrow the list down to our allotted camp slots.

Our Branch also went above and beyond this year by providing Chromebooks for both camps. These Chromebooks were secured from the different Sonoma County Library branches and from the Sonoma County Office of Education. Thank you to **Barbara Epstein, Charlene Luks, Marian Van Alyea, Maryann Cavallo, Laura Tredinnick, Patty McHugh, Linda Clark and Scarlet Wood** for helping with this request from the Camp Director. **And a special thank you to Karla Rosen** who not only checked out a Chromebook, but helped me coordinate the delivery and pick up at the school. It would have been very difficult to coordinate without her. (Karla was also a Dorm Mom in June.)

The girls are introduced to many new STEM programs at camp. In the above picture, Branch member **Mary Barsony** teaches girls to build and use a telescope!

On October 4, 5:30 pm, at the Windsor Public Library, there will be a Panel Discussion where our TT camp graduates can share their camp experience. This year the cost was \$1,200 per girl to send them to camp. Mark your calendar to come see how our fundraising benefits these special girls. Specific details about the event to be sent in September. All members are invited.

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

Nancy Haiston, Tech Trek Selection Committee Chair



TECH TREK EXPERIENCES HELP AGAIN!

Her name is Guadalupe “Lupita” Guzman and she works every weekend waitressing at El Taco Grande in Mitchell Center. When I walked into the restaurant after volunteering at the Raven Theatre, Lupita immediately noticed my AAUW name tag. With a gracious smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye, she excitedly told me that she had been chosen by our

Association of University Women to attend the Tech Trek Summer Session at Stanford University....when she was in the 7th grade! Lupita went on to say that she remembers every detail about that new and wonderful experience and remembers the kindnesses of the women involved, especially her sponsor, Vicki Pearson. She stated that to this very day she continues to keep in touch with the many friends she made at the Stanford session. She is grateful to AAUW for the opportunity to have attended Tech Trek, for she expressed that the impression it made on her, changed her life for the better. Last year, Lupita graduated from the Geyserville New Tech Academy. Working at the restaurant this year, is helping her financially to attend the CAL Regional Medical Assisting School in Santa Rosa this fall.



Hmmmm....on any weekend, in order to help her out, let's go see her at work and say hi...order a Big Taco...and leave her a big tip as well!

Carol Novak

Social Activities



Fall Wine 'N Dine
Saturday, October 14, 2023

Venues to be determined

Watch for an eblast in September!

Wine 'N Dine Summer Brunch

On Sunday, June 25, Healdsburg AAUW held their Summer Wine 'N Dine Brunch. Four AAUW members hosted 34 members, friends, and spouses in their homes and gardens. Garden views from patios, decks, sunrooms, and dining room windows allowed the guests opportunities to enjoy the beauty of each host's outdoor setting during the lovely late morning, early afternoon meal. The hosts who generously offered their homes and back yard surroundings for our June Brunch included AAUW members **Laura Tredinnick, Tami**

Wiener-Stout, Carol Hazlett, and Mary Fitzgerald. Everyone enjoyed an array of delicious foods, delectable wines, and interesting, fun, and often 'getting to know each other' conversations.

Our next **Wine 'N Dine** will be Saturday, October 14. The event is open to vaccinated members and their guests; we always welcome new hosts and guests. Wine 'N Dine events are an enjoyable opportunity to get together with other **AAUW** members in smaller, more intimate settings. We are looking forward to having you join us.

Diane Burnley and Cindy Power, Co-Chairs for the Wine 'N Dine Committee

Meet Our New Members



Gail Burt

Gail is semi-retired (working remotely) from her profession as an IT Manager and most recently as a Behavioral Change Management Consultant — someone who helps executives and employees adjust and accept changes in the organization. She recalls being one of very few women in technology early in her career, but somehow had the instincts to navigate and thrive in what was a very masculine field. She's pleased to say that much of the environment has changed for the better.

On the verge of retirement, Gail has lived part-time in Healdsburg for over the past 5 years and is currently looking for her “forever” home in town. She loves the “vibe” of Healdsburg and is looking forward to getting involved in the community. She was drawn to AAUW for its mission and is especially interested in the STEM project, although is also looking forward to participating in the social activities as well as hiking and book groups. Gail is a University of California Master Gardener in the East Bay (where she has lived for several decades) and leads their Speakers Bureau program, which educates home gardeners on good ecological practices. She is passionate about protecting natural resources, enjoys growing a year-round edible garden and takes pride that home-grown ingredients find their way into every meal she makes. She also loves music, dancing, cooking and is an avid traveler, having visited 24 countries and 49 states. Gail and Bob have been married for over 31 years.

Meet Our New Members (Cont'd)



Cyndie Pogue

Cyndie thoroughly enjoys living in Healdsburg and volunteering in the community. A fifth generation Northern Californian and raised in Monte Sereno, she and her husband Steve settled in Portola Valley until 2015 when they found their Healdsburg home after much searching. They have two married daughters and one granddaughter where Cyndie takes time to babysit at least once a week. Cyndie quips there are three generations of women where the “red hair gene runs strong”. Stephanie Alves, Cyndie’s sister, is also a new member to AAUW, and they often visit their 93 years young mother in Santa Rosa. Longevity is another trait of these strong women.

Before entering the work force after college, Cyndie had a small business creating and custom designing stained glass windows. Now she is starting to dabble in oil pastels and water colors. Cyndie completed a BA in Business Management at San Jose State University. This led her into becoming a program specialist at an electronics company for defense and NASA applications. Then came their daughters, and there was a full swing of the pendulum to becoming a Gymboree teacher.

Prior to moving to Healdsburg, her passion was enriching lives of children, parents and community. Whether doing hands on volunteering or leadership, some referred to Cyndie as a professional volunteer. There were many hours dedicated to the executive boards of National Charity League, Portola Valley Schools Foundation, PTA, and Valley Presbyterian Church for many years. With a penchant for entertaining she brought her creativity to creating special events for various nonprofits, including the aforementioned groups, theater groups, a restorative justice organization’s safe house, and in more recent years Farm to Pantry fundraising events.

“Volunteering makes my heart sing” and her current volunteer time includes Farm to Fight Hunger/Farm to Pantry and Redwood Empire Food Bank. Her creativity spills over into tending her cutting garden and sharing its blooms. And in her “spare time” she finds the fruits of her labor enjoying cooking, preserving, and experimenting with sorbets and ice creams. She loves the outdoors and enjoys hiking. As a former tennis player she chuckles at, “I’m now taking up pickle ball though that usually happens on vacation, and sometimes the paddles just go on vacation too without being used.”

A few Q & A’s:

Why AAUW - I’m drawn to the reading and STEM programs that help students at important ages. Also, I’m greatly enjoying meeting the interesting and capable members of AAUW.

Favorite woman author: My 20-month old granddaughter and her mother reminded me of this special book on Mother’s Day, *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney. “...there is a third thing you must do. You must make the world more beautiful.” Although a children’s book might seem an odd choice, I hope to be a Lupine Lady.

Annapurna Johnson's Story
2018 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship



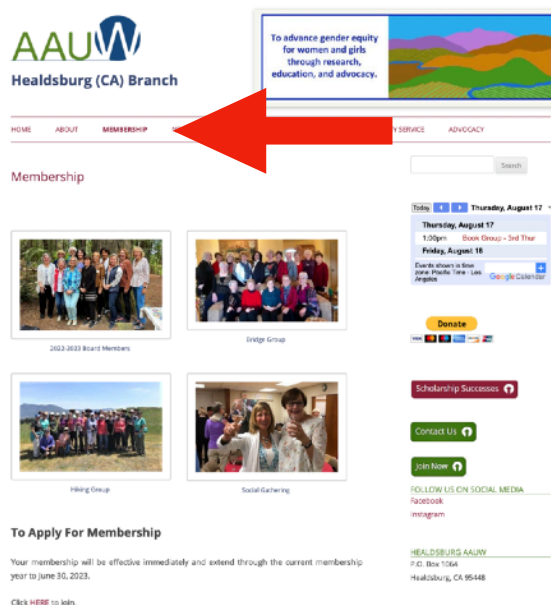
My name is Annapurna Johnson, and I am a Healdsburg High School graduate! I was lucky enough to be awarded an AAUW scholarship for my undergraduate education. My undergraduate experience was unusual for many reasons: after enrolling in NYU and beginning my classes in January of 2019, rather than the customary fall after my graduation in 2018. Following my freshman and first semester of sophomore year, I went to Italy to study abroad as a sophomore at NYU, taking advantage of their Florence location. It was in March of 2020 that Italy shut down due to COVID and I was sent home about a week before the lockdown began.

A few months into COVID, after I had moved to Idaho for several weeks to babysit and escape the reality of my study abroad experience being cut short, I began to hear from colleges I had applied to as a transfer student. I found out that I had gotten into UC Berkeley, which was where I transferred to. My first year was difficult: it was online, I lived at home, and could not have felt further away from being a Berkeley student. However, I took amazing classes with incredible professors, worked part-time, which allowed me to get out of my house, traveled to Berkeley to meet up with my friends, and became involved in the community.

Being a student at UC Berkeley was ultimately the most fulfilling experience I could have hoped for: I majored in Global Studies, was a member of a sorority called Alpha Delta Pi, worked as an editor for the Berkeley Political Review, and wrote an honors thesis studying the pattern of forced abortions among FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia) members in Colombia. I made some of my closest friends at Berkeley and have a community in the Bay for the rest of my life. I feel like I grew the most as a person at UC Berkeley, but realistically, none of this would have happened if I had not attended NYU first. Part of the reason I could attend NYU was because of the unfailing generosity of the organizations in Healdsburg that awarded me scholarships. That money allowed me to graduate from both NYU and Berkeley debt free.

Now, the next chapter of my life is attending law school. I have been accepted to UC College of Law SF, formerly UC Hastings, with a scholarship and guaranteed housing throughout my three years of school. I committed to UC College of Law SF last week, opening the door to my next great adventure. Throughout it all, I thoroughly recognize how fortunate I am to have such an extensive network of selfless people, like the women who run AAUW. I am honored to have received the scholarship in high school and look forward to paying it forward, so the next generation of high-achieving women feel as supported as I have. Thank you, Healdsburg AAUW members, for all you have done for me. This story would not have happened without your help.

Do you know someone who would be a great addition to our branch? We always welcome new members. The Membership tab on the website home page has the membership application as well as an outline of new member orientation. Encourage your friends and family to consider joining AAUW Healdsburg.



Social Media Links. Make sure you are following AAUW Healdsburg on Facebook and Instagram. You'll find the most recent pictures and tidbits of info.



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. Phone: 415-305-4559

Published monthly, except in July and August. Please submit articles and announcements in WORD or PAGES, Calibri 12 pt font justified, and images in .jpeg by the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which you want them included. The Grapevine is available to the general public, therefore please be cautious about including personal information. Send articles to Kim Brown: krb.jlb@gmail.com.

