

# The Grapevine

October 2023

Volume 39, Number 2

## President's Message

As I write this, I am enjoying some beautiful September weather in the Pacific Northwest. Trees are starting to lose their leaves and Autumn is in the air.

At Healdsburg AAUW, we are gearing up for another eventful year. We are looking for a Spring Fundraiser, activating our Grants Committee, commencing Reading Rocks in the schools, holding a Happy Hour and Lunch Bunch event, and so much more.

### Gun Control

We are lending our support to the Petaluma branch which will be hosting a program in January on the important topic of gun control, featuring speakers and agencies with an interest in protecting our children from gun violence. Watch for more information on this program.

### Día de Muertos in Healdsburg

We have been invited by Corazón to create an altar for the Día de Muertos celebration held each year in the Healdsburg Plaza. This is an important step in our diversity outreach and I am delighted that the Board heartily supports our participation. Contact **Ty Benoit** to participate in creating our altar.

Enjoy the change of seasons!

**Laura Tredinnick**  
President



## Scholarships

### High School Scholarships

At the end of the 2023 school year our branch was able to give up to \$6,000 in scholarships to twelve amazing young women, thanks to your generosity and our partnership with the JNR Foundation. We had many applicants from Healdsburg, Windsor, Cloverdale and Geyserville to choose from. After a great deal of deliberation, we chose twelve which we handed out at each school's award night. The students are going to a

variety of universities, including UCLA, UC Berkeley, Sonoma State, Sacramento State, UC Davis, and the University of York in England. Majors include molecular and medical microbiology, kinesiology, health science, environmental studies and theater arts, just to name a few. Some of the recipients plan to become physicians, physician assistants, physical therapists, and psychologists. Many of them are first generation college students wanting to give back to their community. Similar to last year, a few of the girls were former Tech Trek graduates! I received several heartfelt thank you notes this summer, such as this one from a student who received a Tech Trek Scholarship while she was in middle school as well as a college scholarship from AAUW and the Saralee Kundee RNR Foundation. I will include other thank you notes in future Grapevine issues. As an AAUW branch, we really do change lives! Your generosity and commitment will help us continue to do so in the future.



**Beth Wolk,**  
High School Scholarships Chair

Dear AAUW Scholarship Committee,

My family and I are grateful that I had the opportunity to receive the AAUW Scholarship and the Saralee Kundee Scholarship. I have been involved in AAUW since the 7th grade and now as I graduate high school, I look back at the impact that this organization has made not only to me, but thousands of young girls interested in STEM. I'll be heading to UCLA this fall majoring in environmental studies. I'll also be a part of the July Tech Trek Camp!

Thank you,

Tiffany Vega

### **Future Prep at Healdsburg High School**

AAUW members volunteered at Healdsburg High on September 19 and 21 to help with mock interviews, which are part of the junior internship program. More opportunities to volunteer at the high school will happen throughout the year.



### **Reading Rocks**

Reading Rocks has begun at Healdsburg Elementary. Seven of the 10 volunteers started in September and the other three will begin in October. The volunteers at Westside Elementary will also be starting soon.

### **Catherine Mock**

Director of Mission Based Programs

I was fortunate to be one of the interviewers, and was truly impressed with the great answers and the poise they showed. I was surprised these young people were only juniors! HHS is a good school and I am happy with the fact that AAUW - and the community - are giving so much support to the next generation!

Judy Edmonds, The Grapevine Editor

## Communications

How do you stay in touch with Healdsburg AAUW activities and members? Our Communications Team promotes all our activities and accomplishments through a variety of media and we want you to always be “in the know.” Here’s a description of the various ways we communicate with you.



You probably most often notice our e-blasts through Constant Contact. They deliver colorful announcements of all our branch social, educational, and public policy events. **Liz Loebel** coordinates these individual emails which provide dates, times, and contact information for your planning purposes. There are some weeks when multiple announcements are in your mailbox. Personal communications, such as get-well messages, are handled by our Corresponding Secretary, **Holly Schatz**.

We reach a wider community by highlighting our events and activities on Facebook and Instagram with candid photos of the events. **Jess Cress** posts these. For our public events we reach out to the community through pieces in area newspapers and online outlets, a constantly changing environment navigated by **Carol Clurman**.



On the first of each month (except July and August) our Grapevine newsletter highlights in detail a variety of programs and social events ranging from Mission Based programs to Social Activities. In addition, *The Grapevine* includes engaging personal profiles of our new members and scholarship recipients. **Kim Brown** teams with editors **Judy Edmonds** and **Dyan Urban** and publishes submissions for the newsletter so that you can stay informed.

Our website [AAUW Healdsburg \(CA\) Branch](https://www.aauw.org/branch/ca) is available 24/7. **Laura Tyler** works closely with our National Office to keep this website up-to-date. Your Grapevine newsletter can be found here, including past issues. Many members participate in Interest Groups and key dates for these groups are posted on the Calendar. Contact information for all members as well as Interest Groups can be found under the Membership tab. Branch policies and board minutes are accessible. We are all proud of the contributions made by the Healdsburg AAUW Fund and you can follow their accomplishments through the website.



I have learned that members have individual preferences for accessing information about the Healdsburg AAUW. You may prefer one or several of the vehicles described above. Please let me know if you have questions or comments about any of them. And stay in touch!

**Kim Alexander**  
Communications Director



## Social Activities



### Santa Rosa AAUW Authors Luncheon

Saturday November 4 11:30-3:00

*Iron and Vine Restaurant*

3328 Yulupa

Featuring authors:

*Barbara Sapienza*

*JJ Elliott*

*Linda Bello-Ruiz*

\$50 Per Person

Luncheon by reservation and pre-payment only!

Full sit-down luncheon

Book Sales, Auction and Raffle. Please bring cash or check. We have a credit card machine but we get charged.

Friends & Family Welcome

For questions please contact Linda Heiser at [karalindah@gmail.com](mailto:karalindah@gmail.com)

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### Reservations for Santa Rosa AAUW Authors' Luncheon

Saturday, November 4, 11:30-3:00

Names of Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal choice:** Cauliflower marsala steak, asparagus (vegan, gluten free) ☐  
Mediterranean artichoke chicken ☐

Amount enclosed @ \$50 per person. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out to AAUW Santa Rosa Branch with "Authors Luncheon" on the memo line. **Mail to: Kate Olivier 3921 Pressley Rd, Santa Rosa 95404 by October 21st**

## Social Activities Cont'd

### New Interest Groups

Our AAUW Branch has four very active interest groups : Hiking, Great Decisions, Bridge, and Book Groups.



Would you like to take the lead and expand into additional areas such as : Art, Mahjong, Movie Group, Garden Group, or form a new Book Group or Great Decisions Group ? This is a great way to meet your fellow members while sharing mutual interests. If you are interested in a leadership role, or have a suggestion for another interest group please contact me.

**Kate Van Ness**  
Past President  
[kate@hiddenhill.com](mailto:kate@hiddenhill.com)



2023-2024  
AAUW  
of California  
PUBLIC POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 1

# Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

## WHERE IS THAT?

**Find All Things Public Policy in Google Workspace**

You can now find everything you need in one Google Workspace--set up just for you! This workspace will include an archive of Public Policy News (beginning next month, because this is issue #1), past branch newsletter articles, state committee member profiles, branch liaisons, and important resources and links (like a [Policy Leader Resource Manual](#) from AAUW National).

Click [HERE](#) to check out your public policy resources!

## WHO IS THAT?

**How to Connect with Your Branch Liaison from the State Public Policy Committee**

Each AAUW California branch has a specific state Public Policy Committee member liaison. To find your liaison [CLICK HERE](#). You can also get to know them a bit better through checking out their individual profiles, which we will be releasing in October.

## CA LEGISLATION

**What's happening with supported bills?**

Unsure of what bills we're supporting in California in this legislative cycle and/or how they've fared in the Senate/Assembly this year? Click on the bill tracker link on the sidebar to get the latest updates. This year's California legislative cycle is winding down, so we're working hard with our coalition partners to get our bills to the governor's desk. Be sure to check your inbox for action alerts from us in the coming weeks so you can help us get them across the finish line! Click [HERE](#) if you would like to sign up for **ACTION ALERTS** on AAUW California's priority legislation in the future.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Thursday 09/21 @ 7pm PT Webinar**

**School Board Project:** "Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!" Click [HERE](#) to register.

**Wednesday 10/04 @ 2pm PT Virtual Meeting**

First bimonthly meeting for branch public policy chairs. Amy and Missy will provide updates and answer questions. Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.

### TO DO:

- Sign up for CA legislative Action Alerts [HERE](#).
- Register for the School Board Project Webinar [HERE](#).
- Check out your Google Workspace Resources [HERE](#).

**BILL TRACKER**



## SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT

### Learn More About the SBP

The School Board Project (SBP) is creating quite a buzz! In August, Committee Day attendees, who came from all California state committees, voted this project as one of the state's most exciting undertakings in the coming year. We're excited, too. The SBP gives you tools to address a problem that is being faced by communities all across the state and the nation: attempts to elect regressive school board members who support book banning and curricula censorship.

If you want to know more, check out the SBP webinar on September 21st. At this webinar, entitled, "Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!" Kathi Harper, School Board Project Committee Chair, will explain the project, what we are doing, and how all AAUW California members can help.

If you want to get started on some advance reading, we recommend checking out the Unite Against Book Bans toolkit [HERE](#).

## EDUCATION & ACTION

### Public Education Paired with Action Items



We have received an increase in requests for action items. WE HEAR YOU! We will be rolling out a new social media campaign to educate AAUW California members, and the wider public, about the bills that we are sponsoring and advancing in California. This campaign will include an overview of the problems that each bill is addressing and how the bill aligns with our priorities as well as specific directions and tools for you to take action to help them advance. You may get some Action Alerts from us as this legislative season winds down, but this specific campaign will focus on priority bills in the next legislative season, launching in Spring 2024. Be sure to [sign up for Action Alerts](#) if you are interested!

CONTACT US AT [PUBLICPOLICY@AAUW-CA.ORG](mailto:PUBLICPOLICY@AAUW-CA.ORG)



## ARTICLE FOR YOUR OCTOBER BRANCH NEWSLETTERS

### Advancing Gender Equity is Advancing Environmental Sustainability (and vice versa)

By Missy Maceyko, Co-Chair, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

After a year of wild weather in California, many of us may be thinking more about climate, environment, and sustainability. How does our concern with the weather relate to AAUW California's Public Policy Priorities? Advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability. The inverse is also true.

The United Nations sustainable development goals, adopted in 2015, seek to push all countries to act to protect the planet, ensure widespread prosperity, and promote peace. Achieving gender equality, goal number five, is a crucial element in this overall strategy.

We know that having greater gender diversity in leadership improves organizations. One of AAUW California's public policy focus areas is increasing women in leadership positions. However, advancing this goal can also have positive climate impacts. The UN has found that having greater gender diversity in climate discussions leads to improved outcomes on climate-focused policies and projects. This is just one case in which we can see how sustainable development goal 5, promoting greater gender equality, alongside advancing AAUW California's public policy priorities, can be important for achieving sustainable development goal 13, creating more impactful climate action.



Data also shows us that (un)sustainable production and consumption patterns, which harm the environment, tend to be gendered, with "green" choices being widely feminized. While this is a global trend, we see this in popular portrayals of more planet-friendly consumption choices in the United States, as well, such as veganism, which tends to be marked as more "feminine" and less "masculine." This example shows us that sustainable development goal 5, promoting greater gender equality, alongside AAUW California's overall public policy mission of advancing equity for women and girls, is also important for achieving sustainable development goal 12, which focuses on creating more planet-friendly and responsible production and consumption patterns.

Advancing gender equity is directly related to environmental sustainability, and vice versa. In advancing AAUW California's public policy goals, and expanding the rights of all women and girls, we can help create the conditions for greater justice and inclusion, economic parity, and environmental viability, all at the same time.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO ACCESS A TEXT-BASED COPY OF THE NL ARTICLE

## Meet Our New Members



### Cristi Cameron

Cristi grew up in and around the Bay Area, starting in Sunnyvale and finishing high school in Novato. After graduating from UC Santa Barbara with a Philosophy/Economics degree she continued at UCSB in secondary education. Teaching jobs were scarce at that time in 1977 so Cristi stepped out. The following year she married her college sweetheart Tim. She worked in several sectors before taking a “break” to have three sons. While being a stay at home mom was gratifying, Cristi found working in their classrooms reignited her passion and began substitute teaching. She then finished her credential and landed her first teaching job. She taught many grades but soon found Kindergarten was her home. After teaching for 30 years and caring for three sons Cristi said “I knew I needed an outlet in retirement.” Enter AAUW.

AAUW in Tracy CA was a great place to meet people, learn about her new town and contribute to the community. Her efforts included fundraising directed to local scholarships to young women graduating high school and community college. Cristi describes the pursuit of lifelong learning is one of the most important aspects of AAUW for her. She enjoyed several interest groups along with starting a gourmet group, which continued to meet for several years even after the branch dissolved!

Cristi’s parents retired to Healdsburg and she found herself visiting for 30 years. Finally, she purchased a home and this has renewed her interest in gardening and décor. Her love of cooking has her two sons currently living with them and makes a great audience for her cuisine and entertaining. The bounty of living in Healdsburg is echoed by Cristi when describing the local travel, theater, learning about wine/food, and attending the many music opportunities in magical Sonoma County.

You can find Cristi volunteering at Healdsburg Elementary School most Wednesdays helping in Kindergarten and TK (transitional kindergarten). Her most recent read, *Beasts of a Little Land* by Juhea Kim is her favorite book. Cristi is looking for a book group to enjoy with the AAUW women – do let her know!

Her advice to young women? “Keep learning, stay curious and persevere. There is help. You just need to ask whether it is extra help in a difficult subject, monetary support for education , or maybe a business you want to start. Help is out there. Keep asking until you find it.”

## Meet Our New Members (Cont'd)



### Dinna Eisenhart

Dinna's home was the Philippines until moving to the US at age 18. Upon moving to the Bay Area, she took classes from several community colleges and ultimately graduated at 40 years old with a degree in Art History from UC Berkeley. "It was very challenging to work, raise kids and go to college, but I was driven to earn a degree and be a good example for my two daughters—a dream come true!" Married now for 33 years, she and her husband Fred raised their daughters in many different venues; Oahu, HI, Las Vegas, NV, Portland, OR, and Mill Valley. Since 2008, her work has focused on real estate property investment and management.

In her spare time, Dinna enjoys the many aspects of life here in Healdsburg, including cooking, painting, tennis, golf, and the very popular pickleball! If you don't see her at these events it's probably because she is traveling! Dinna's interest in joining

AAUW stems from her desire to get more involved in the community and volunteer, especially in some of the mission-based programs for girls including Life Skills for High School. She also finds the many social opportunities of interest.

Dinna's favorite book written by a female author is, *The Blessings of a Skinned Knee* by Wendy Mogel, PhD. This is a book that provides a roadmap for "raising self-reliant, resilient, ethical and compassionate children." This seems to ring even louder when asked about providing advice for young women today. First, surround yourself with good people. Second, work, save, invest and retire early. They say money can't buy you love, but you can buy time.

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](mailto: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](mailto:krb.jlb@gmail.com).

