

The Grapevine

November 2023

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President's Message

Your Shots!

As I write this, I am recovering from COVID, which has disrupted much of my life over the past two weeks. We have all heard that it's going around again, but I never thought I would get it (or it would get me). My booster was already scheduled for next week. Too late. My husband received his shot earlier and did not catch it. Hooray! COVID is not all we need to worry about at this time of year. If you haven't done so already, get your flu shot too, and talk with your doctor about the advisability of getting the new RSV vaccine. Wouldn't it be great if we all could stay healthy and continue our normal activities during the coming winter?



The Annular Eclipse over Albuquerque, New Mexico, Patrick T. Fallon, AFP via Getty Images.

Bright Spots

Before getting sick, I attended a panel discussion by five of our seven Tech Trek returnees. What a fun evening! They shared their challenges and accomplishments with us. When one of the girls described how her team's "Build It Night" project didn't work out, yet they still felt successful because they all learned something from the failure, I was so proud of them. The confidence they gained from their experience showed in many ways. Thank you to **Anna-Laura Jansma** for facilitating the discussion, six Tech Trek Alumnae (TTAG members) for developing questions, and **Nancy Haiston and the whole Tech Trek Team**, along with **Karla Rosen and the TTAG Team** for putting on this event.

I was also pleased to hear that **Mary Barsony** has joined the statewide Tech Trek committee. Her focus is meeting the instructors' need for supplies, which has been unrepresented in the past. Having local input will certainly be beneficial to the program.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

Do you want to learn more about NCCWSL? The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, or NCCWSL, is an annual AAUW conference that brings together more than 800 young women from across the country for two and a half days of leadership training, networking, and inspiration. The California Online and Oregon Online branches recently held a seven-person panel of recent attendees. Click [HERE](#) and listen to their passion as they describe the transformative experiences that AAUW afforded them. Last year, our board voted to support this program with a scholarship in the amount of \$500 instead of sending our entire donation to National's "Greatest Needs" fund. I hope we will again support these young leaders and their development this year.

Stay Healthy!

Laura Tredinnick

2023 SRJC Scholarships for Re-entry Women

“Our efforts are making a difference”



As a part of our mission of encouraging higher education for women, the Healdsburg AAUW awarded \$16,000 in scholarships in 2023 to four highly deserving, re-entry women who graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College and are now pursuing their degrees at a four-year college/university. These awards bring the total amount in scholarship awards to SRJC students to \$355,000 since 1995. This year's applicants were carefully screened via Awardspring, an online system that was introduced in 2019, and then each finalist was interviewed by our committee via Zoom. This year's scholarship

committee included **Maureen Keefe**, **Phil Wright** and myself.

This year's awardees have had to overcome a host of significant barriers that would cause many others to rethink their need for a college degree. This year's scholarship recipients at one point were forced to step back from school for a variety of reasons such as raising a family, working full time to support other family members, injury, caring for an elder, or severe illness. However, each rallied in their own way, worked through and overcame the challenges that confronted them including the global pandemic, returned to and graduated from SRJC, and are now pursuing their degrees at a four-year college/university.

Each of our deserving recipients have not only worked hard to better their own lives, but also worked to make a difference in the lives of others and their communities. This year's awardees aspire to the following rewarding careers: Marriage and Family Therapist, Reading Specialist, Film Producer/Film Maker and Educator/Researcher.

You can find information about this year's awardees and their words of appreciation on the [Community Service/Scholarships](#) page of our branch web site.

Jane Martin, Committee Chair



Tech Trek 2023 is officially over. On Wednesday, October 4, 35 branch members, Tech Trek (TT) donors, teachers, parents, and guests attended an event where five of the seven TT camp attendees shared their camp experiences.

It was especially exciting to have six of our 2023 TT donors attend. Aside from listening to the panel discussion, during the pre-panel time they were able to talk individually to the girls to learn about their experiences.

Teachers are an important part of the selection process and they have started attending both our Meet & Greet and Panel Discussion. Their presence is a real boost for the girls.

The panel discussion is an annual event which gives us the opportunity to hear firsthand about camp life and how it impacted the girls who were chosen to attend. In May we met the girls and their families at the annual Meet & Greet. In four short months the transformation was amazing. To quote one member, **"The Tech Trek girls have grown more confident over the summer-the difference from meeting them at the Healdsburg Library meeting was dramatic."**



This year, TTAG (Tech Trek Alumni Group) participated by helping to write and then ask questions during the panel. The girls in TTAG range in age from 8th grade to high school seniors. Because of TTAG's participation this year, the audience was able to observe the ongoing benefit for girls who participate in Tech Trek.

Our Branch has once again budgeted to send eight girls to the 2024 TT camp and the Selection Committee has started the necessary work to recruit and identify those eight girls.

Nancy Haiston, Chair

Social Activities

LUNCH BUNCH at Roof 106 on October 4

Lunch Bunch met at Roof 106, the rooftop at the Matheson, on a very warm afternoon. Lunch was delish and plentiful. The warm afternoon was comfortable and the misting/ceiling fans kept us all comfortable.

Everyone had a wonderful time visiting with old friends and meeting new members. Lunch Bunch meets again in January. Location to be determined. See you there!!

Scarlett Wood



AAUW Petaluma Program: Domestic Violence in Our Community



Statistics show that nearly a quarter of households are impacted by domestic violence. On Thursday, November 16 at 7 pm, Madeleine Keegan O'Connell, Chief Executive Officer of YWCA, will join us by Zoom to talk about how we can build awareness to keep local families safe from harm. Check out the [YWCA website](#) for a wealth of information about available services. RSVP to jjkreed3@gmail.com to get the link for the meeting.

Looking Forward With The Grapevine....A Few Changes.

We're off to a great start in the new publishing year of The Grapevine. Thank you all who have submitted such wonderful articles and photographs to document the many experiences we have as members! I am making a few changes in the submittals of articles to make it easier on you.

If you find emailing me the text and attaching any visuals easier and faster, please do so. You are no longer required to submit the articles in Word or Pages, using the Calibri font and justifying the text. I will make these adjustments for you. I find that I still have to edit the Word document formats so receiving the text in its cleanest form might make things easier.

However, if you prefer to submit articles using a tool, we will happily accept them in Pages, Google Docs, and Word.

Looking forward to seeing all we achieve together in the upcoming issues! Remember, the deadline is the 15th of each month — and yes, it is a firm deadline. 🎃

Kim Brown, The Grapevine Publisher
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Meet Our New Members



Edith Wilson

Edith grew up in Connecticut with three older brothers, one of whom was scientifically oriented having a lab in the family home cellar. Edith became his “lab assistant” when experiments were conducted on nights and weekends. In middle school it was clear that she would pursue math or science, often the only girl in her class or club! She relates the story of holding her own with boys, especially the ones that wanted to copy her homework! Fast forward to college, her major of biology quickly became Bio-Medical Engineering where yet again, she was one of three women in engineering at Duke University. Edith’s father almost disowned her for becoming an engineer. However, she was forgiven after being admitted to Stanford University in 1991 for a Doctorate in Engineering!

A 40+ year career in high tech, first with Hewlett-Packard, a stone's throw away from Stanford, where she worked at the HP Research Labs on super-geeky advanced chip production methods. This was followed by LED opto-electronics where her team developed daylight visible LEDs which made LED traffic lights, automobile lighting, and the new LED lightbulbs possible. HP sent her on great international assignments in Malaysia as well as London. In the late 1990s she was transferred to Sonoma County to run R&D at the Fountaingrove site, now spun off as Keysight Technologies. After leaving HP, Edith worked in VC consulting, led Hardware R&D at Enphase Energy and Omnicell, and, currently is VP of Engineering at Becton Dickinson leading Pharmacy Automation.

Edith is winding down her day-to-day tech career and sees her next step as assisting young women in their paths into science. She envisions being an advocate for introducing young women and minorities to math and science and assisting them in mastering the fundamentals in elementary, middle and high school so they can be admitted and succeed in university STEM programs and progress into STEM careers. She also will take more time outdoors: as an avid gardener, including a cabernet vineyard in Alexander Valley and enjoy exercise in any and all ways.

Q & A: Favorite female author: *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson truly influenced me as a young girl and introduced me to the fragile balance of nature and how we chemically try to influence nature. Carson was so ahead of her time in her awareness of DDT and its impact.

An unexpected moment in life: My daughter arrived when I was 39. She is an amazing young woman who is neither scientific nor mathematical, yet she is one of the most delightful humans on earth. She has taught me so much about life that I would never have learned without her.

Advice for young women of today: Persevere!!!! Never get discouraged - there is always a path forward.

Meet Our New Members (Cont'd)



Pam Jones

A lifelong Bay area resident (and Alameda native), Pam has been venturing to Sonoma County since childhood on the Russian River, a honeymoon 41 years ago, and regular weekend trips with family and friends. Her education experiences were in Journalism (U of Colorado), Urban Studies (Occidental) and a Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs (San Francisco). Her husband, Steve Herskovitz, still works in the software industry, but is finding the draw of Healdsburg and a few dozen pomegranate trees a real temptation to retire! Their children are sprinkled throughout Connecticut, Lafayette and Charleston.

Pam highlights the big picture of her career is getting peoples' voices and stories heard and learning from, asking questions and actively listening. This skill set allowed her to synthesize and write (news reporter/editor), speak (strategist and spokesperson for California farmers on environmental and food safety issues), and identify and get stakeholders to express their interests on important topics (neutral facilitator/mediator for California water issues). A thoughtful quote on her view on life - "a

through-line of curiosity and interest in a variety of topics – perhaps broader than deep."

Pam's most rewarding career role was her most recent - empowering 48 recent college graduates with the skills, knowledge and networks for careers in ethical public service leadership. In her five years directing the **Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs** -- the same program that started my career (and that of the *late Senator Dianne Feinstein* and our other US Senator, Alex Padilla) -- both humbled and inspired me.

With children and career behind her, she now has time to consider what's next and says "I don't want activities that feel like a job, but I am interested in purposeful engagement. I'm splitting time between San Carlos, Healdsburg, visiting children/grandchildren, and traveling with friends and family." With a large aspirational library, walking on a regular basis, Pam has also held onto many friends over her years and enjoys meals and discourse with friends -- old and new. As a public service advocate, she is drawn to current issues, but having been involved for so long in public affairs, she sometimes feels overwhelmed and ready to let the next generation grapple with seemingly intractable challenges.

Pam never considered joining AAUW.....but as she was getting to know the community, member **Carol Beattie** said, "You ought to look into it. Smart, interesting women doing good things, particularly for young women." The combination of "give and get" is appealing.

An unexpected moment in life: "Off and on over the past five years , I've been using DNA results (Ancestry and 23andMe) to search for my birth family, hitting brick walls and loose ends. In August, I decided to consult a volunteer DNA detective. To my shock, with five hours research, he constructed my family tree on both sides, including seven half-siblings in Indiana and New York. I've written a half-sister, whose image looks uncannily similar, but have not received a response. Perhaps just knowing my "other" story is enough, but I sure am curious. It's all quite an unexpected revelation at this stage of life."

Your favorite female author: A recent read -- *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. A frank narrative of a young man facing countless demons -- external and internal -- in poverty-stricken, drug-addicted Southern Appalachia. Its inspiration and hope come from his lens of life and the choices he is able to make.

Advice for young girls/women of today: Develop yourself from the inside out -- self-awareness, communications, character, community. And develop an internal North Star to guide you. Skills, job titles and life's situations change, but a consistent, ethical core benefits you and others for life.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Wishing you all a peaceful and wonderful holiday.
Looking forward to seeing you this holiday season.

Your Grapevine team...Kim Alexander, Carol Beattie, Kim Brown, Judy Edmonds, Dyan Urban

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 email text, Google Docs, Pages or Word 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.

