

# The Grapevine

February 2024

Volume 39, Number 6

## President's Message

### Annual Dues – No Change in Amount – Change in Tax Deductibility

There will be no change in the dollar amount of annual dues this year for individuals. Several people reported being confused by an email sent by AAUW National proposing to increase the dues for colleges and universities to \$250. This has nothing to do with individual members; it is only for institutional members. The good news for individuals is that the \$72 portion of dues which goes to AAUW National, is now fully tax deductible.

### Homes Tour

**Dena Cochran** and I met recently with a local architect, Jonathan Pearlman, who has offered to help us find interesting houses for our Homes Tour, including his own newly constructed home. As a result, we are planning to resurrect the Homes Tour in the Spring of 2025. Planning will start in late summer. We are now looking for two people to co-chair the Homes Tour, preferably one member with Homes Tour leadership experience and one member who would learn the ropes.

### Monthly Speaker Series - Monday, February 12, 11:30 am -1:00 pm:

Our January Speaker Series was a great success. Approximately 50 members and guests gathered to hear Mayor David Hagele's update on the City of Healdsburg's initiatives. He was joined by a surprise guest, City Manager Jeff Kay. We plan to hold the Speakers Series every month on the second Monday of the month, so mark your calendars. See eBlasts to RSVP.

In February, join us at the Healdsburg Community Center for a brief AAUW member update and to hear invited speaker Susan Gilmore, President and CEO of the North Bay Children's Center (NBCC). NBCC has been providing quality infant, toddler, and preschool programs primarily for low-income families in the North Bay; thirteen are located in Sonoma County. NBCC's programs have grown into a leading regional safety-net organization addressing nationally recognized problems that threaten the futures of our children: the education achievement gap; the childhood obesity epidemic; and climate change. Susan will discuss NBCC's Garden of Eatin' Program, the Fitch Mountain preschool facility in Healdsburg, and share with you the results of her testimony to the U.S. Early Years Climate Change Task Force.

### Updated Schedule

11:30 -11:45 am Social

11:45 -12:05 pm Branch update/brown bag lunch

12:05 -1:00 pm Speaker and Q&A (Susan Gilmore)

### LEARN ABOUT A WOMAN WHO CHANGED THE FACE OF AAUW!

Join AAUW CA via Zoom on Sunday, February 4, at 3:00 pm to hear about Black activist Mary Church Terrell, her work for women's suffrage and racial equality, and her role in the integration of AAUW. A co-founder of the NAACP, Terrell became the first Black member of AAUW after winning an anti-discrimination lawsuit. We will hear from Dr. Alison Parker, author of *Unceasing Militant: The Life of Mary Church Terrell*, as she recounts stories and major successes in the life of this extraordinary woman. Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear firsthand about this little-known activist and her unusual history with AAUW. Register [HERE](#).

**Laura Tredinnick**, Board President



## News from AAUW CA

### 2024 Call For Candidates

AAUW California is looking for enthusiastic, committed, and proven leaders to serve on the AAUW California Board of Directors. How about you? Or is there someone you know with leadership talent?

We seek candidates for:

- Secretary (two-year term 2024-2026)
- Four Directors (two-year terms 2024-2026)
- One Director (one-year term 2024-2025)

The committee members will be contacting branch presidents and others who have been suggested to the committee. Encourage members in your branch who might like to run for state office, or maybe you yourself would make a great candidate!

For more information, including a link to the application, click [HERE](#)



### Keep Track of the Latest!

Our state Public Policy Committee labors to thoughtfully select the legislation we will follow as well as those we support with our funds and our energy. How are we doing? The Bill Tracker is kept up to date so you can be too. Check it periodically to see what bills we're rallying around and how they're doing.

[AAUW California Bill Tracker.](#)



## Mission Based Programs



### Holiday Gifts for Teachers

Thanks to the generosity of our members, **Cathy Mock** and I delivered checks for \$410 to the principals at West Side School, Healdsburg Elementary, and Fitch Mountain Elementary. The principals were very excited and plan on putting the money to good use. There is always such a need for supplies, particularly at this time of the year.

**Beth Wolk**

Holiday Gifts For Teachers Chair



### Volunteers needed for Healdsburg High School Junior Internship Presentation March 6

Juniors will be presenting their internship experiences in many different fields that began the end of January.

**Where:** Healdsburg High School

**When:** March 6, 6-8 pm (arrive by 5:45 pm)

**What:** You will have the opportunity to hear six or more student presentations and be able to provide constructive input to the students.

Contact David Hubbell ([dhubbell@husd.com](mailto:dhubbell@husd.com)) if you can join in that night or have questions.

**Catherine Mock**

Mission Based Programs Director

## Mission Based Programs Reading Rocks

Each year, to encourage and support students as they learn to read, our AAUW Reading Rocks Program allows each first grade student at Healdsburg Elementary and West Side to choose their very own book. In addition, each first grade teacher receives a few books to add to their classroom libraries. Books were given out at both schools before the holiday break by the committee chair at Healdsburg Elementary, **Diane Burnley** and the committee chair at West Side, **Patricia Bertapelle**. Other Reading Rock volunteers who passed out books include **Connie Newhall**, **Judy Biondolillo** and **Georgia Helthall**.

**Catherine Mock**  
Mission Based Projects Director





## STEM



### Tech Trek Volunteers Needed!!

Preparations for Tech Trek Camp Franklin at Sonoma State University are in full swing. Camp is scheduled for June 23 through June 29.

Camp Franklin will host a total of 99 campers. Organizing an event like this requires many, many hands. Would you like to lend yours? Can you help out with any of the following positions?

- Organize June 27 Visitation Day
- Present at Professional Women's Night
- Dorm Mom. Must be firm, fair, fun, fit and flexible.
  - Do you qualify? If so, you would be an ideal candidate.
  - Members of our branch have previously served as Dorm Moms. They'd be happy to talk to you about what the position really entails.

There will also be opportunities to volunteer as class monitors, field trip chaperones, etc. For now, the request is to fill the positions listed above.

Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions. Thank you. **Nancy Haiston**, [nhaiston@earthlink.net](mailto:nhaiston@earthlink.net), 707-887-0222



## Social Activities

January's Cultural Event was a fun ride on the SMART train through Sonoma and Marin counties. Twenty-four members enjoyed the scenery, conversation and good food at Larkspur Landing.

**Kim Alexander**, Communications Director



## IN MEMORIAM CANDACE DANHAUSEN



An AAUW charter member, past president and hard-working member has passed away on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

Candace Danhausen was a “Gal about Town” as she knew practically everyone in Healdsburg, having been born and raised here and a long-time teacher in the Healdsburg School District!

To my knowledge, Candy never declined a request to be of help or service to her family, friends or community. And, especially to AAUW! At the beginning of our small group of 25 members in 1975, she helped by recruiting

members, starting child care exchanges and a bridge group and inviting speakers to monthly meetings! Many AAUW Board meetings were held at her home on Bradley Court where child care was provided so officers could discuss business uninterrupted!

(Not always the case!)

Reminiscing over those beginning years and how Healdsburg AAUW has grown and thrived, I truly believe our group would not have survived past those early years without Candy’s enthusiastic promotion and welcoming of each and every new member! She will be sorely missed by all who have known her.

**Jean E. Short**  
First President  
Columbia Falls, Montana



## Scholarships

Dear Healdsburg AAUW Fund,

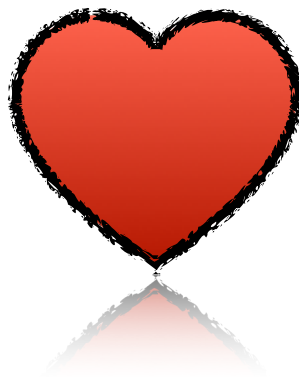
I have so much to thank you for. I first came across AAUW in the seventh grade, when I applied to Tech Trek. I always knew I wanted to pursue higher education, however attending Tech Trek solidified my desire. Being surrounded by so many other girls who I shared the same goal with was motivating and I knew the future I wanted. From then on I challenged myself to take the most rigorous courses available to me at Cloverdale High School. My efforts were well worth it when I was accepted to the University of Notre Dame.

In the fall I moved to Indiana and began my first semester. It was a time when I was challenged more than I had ever been before, and there were times I faltered, but I did not fail. The semester was also filled with wonderful memories of meeting new people and new experiences. I have officially completed my first semester of college at Notre Dame and I'm excited to see what's in store these next three and half years.

I am a strong believer that our experiences shape who we are. Attending Tech Trek is one of the experiences that has largely impacted who I am today and where I am. I would like to thank you for the experience you gave me at 13 years old. Now at 18, five years later, I would like to once again thank you. This time I am thanking you for your financial support, which is helping me fulfill my dream of completing a higher education. Although I may no longer be in Sonoma County, I don't fail to remember the amazing community which I have back home, and which I'm extremely grateful for, thank you.

Warm regards,

Guadalupe Nunez





### Scholarship Success Stories

#### Brenda Cross's Story

2018 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC and 2019 Garren Scholarships

At the beginning of my education journey, I doubted myself and what I was capable of achieving. I secretly dreamed of transferring to the University of California, Berkeley after I finished my lower division courses at Santa Rosa Junior College, but it was hard to admit this dream to myself and others. Attending Berkeley would mean taking more prerequisites at the junior college and paying higher tuition at the University. As an adult re-entry student, adding more time and expenses to my education felt like a big risk especially since I wasn't convinced I would even be accepted at this prestigious school.

Fortunately, I had a wonderful professor at Santa Rosa Junior College who listened to my fears and encouraged me to follow my dreams even if that meant one extra year at SRJC. Professor Michelle Conley told me that I was good enough to get accepted and that I could find scholarships to cover the extra costs. Her encouragement helped me to start believing in myself and to take the next steps.

Yes, I took another year of courses at SRJC to fulfill the University requirements and applied to the HAAS School of Business at UC Berkeley. I also started researching scholarships and that is when I found your AAUW Healdsburg scholarship. Later that year, I was thrilled when I found out that I was both accepted to HAAS and awarded the AAUW scholarship. While I was awarded a grant to cover my tuition at Berkeley, the AAUW scholarship would help cover my living expenses. This was a huge relief because it meant I could put all my time and energy into my studies.

As a special unanticipated and much appreciated bonus, in my second year at HAAS, I applied for and was awarded a renewal of my AAUW scholarship through your Healdsburg Al Garren Renewal Scholarship Fund. This bonus award helped me to continue to meet my financial needs as I addressed the academic horizons in front of me. Additionally, it enabled me to have the time to dedicate to the recruiting process with numerous firms to find the perfect fit for a summer internship, an important step in preparing for post-graduation career options.

The HAAS School of Business was a wonderful experience. Through my courses, I learned that I love accounting and I now work for a prominent accounting firm. Additionally, this January I officially became a licensed certified professional accountant. I am 39 years old now and I am happier than I have ever been. Not only am I more financially secure given that I have more career opportunities in front of me, but my confidence has grown significantly.

I am grateful for my wonderful professor at the junior college and the Healdsburg AAUW committee who chose me to be awarded a scholarship and its membership that provided the funding. Both came at a time when I was still trying to recognize my own strengths and capabilities. Through hard work and determination, I accomplished huge goals and will never be the same. The best part is that I finally feel like I am able to present to the world the strong, intelligent woman I know I have always been.



**Wishing you all a heartwarming  
Valentine's Day**

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

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