

The Grapevine

March 2024

Volume 39, Number 7

PUBLIC POLICY

SUPPORT REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE THIS ELECTION YEAR!

A REMINDER FROM YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Missed the AAUW film shown at The 222 in January? You can watch *Fly So Far* on Kanopy! All you need is a Sonoma County Library card and a Kanopy account: <https://www.kanopy.com/en/sonomalibrary>

If you don't have time to watch the film, read more about Teodora Vásquez and her work since the film was released in 2021. [CNN provided this coverage](#) in 2023.

Of course, it can't happen here! Are we sure? Check out this interview with Brittany Watts, the woman in Ohio who was arrested after a recent miscarriage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yMv5gFtyGM>



As we heard during the awesome panel discussion after the film, we must take action to protect women's rights related to access to reproductive health across the United States and the world. Hopefully, you will find a way to help get out the vote this election year and/or make a contribution to a group like [Planned Parenthood of Northern California](#). So much is at stake.

Here is another resource that clarifies the national position within AAUW: [AAUW's Policy Paper on Reproductive Rights](#).

Let's do this!

Ty Benoit, Public Policy Committee

President's Message

As a native Californian, I know that Spring begins in February. By this time of year, our daffodils are up, our paperwhites have bloomed and gone, daphne is scenting the air, the weeds are taking over, and we appreciate both our rainy and sunny days.

Looking back, we've had a busy February:

- We held a reproductive rights event with 100 attendees and a DEI component.
- We participated in the Gun Violence Prevention Program with our sister AAUW branches in Santa Rosa and Petaluma.
- We had a wonderful presentation from Susan Gilmore, CEO of the North Bay Children's Center. The organization she has built from the idea that all children deserve to have access to preschool and a healthy lifestyle is truly amazing!
- We had a Lunch Bunch at Bollywood, a well-attended Wine 'n Dine, and a trip on the SMART train.

There are lots of exciting things popping up in spring from March through May:

- A spring fundraiser for AAUW at Montage is coming (date and details to be announced).
- There will be a trip to the Marine Mammal Center in April combined with a presentation from the director of the center as our March Speaker. See the article in this issue for more background information.
- A Happy Hour will give us a chance to relax and connect.
- We'll participate in the Climate Fest, April 21.
- Our volunteers will offer insight at the HHS Internship Presentation Night, on March 6.
- We'll be selecting our Tech Trek attendees.
- A new Reading Rocks at Mattie Washburn is starting.
- High school and re-entry scholarship application review teams will be busy.
- At our end-of-year celebration on May 18, we will recognize and celebrate our work and fun during this year together.

An important vote is coming.

On April 5, we will be asked to vote on a change to AAUW's National Bylaws to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. I support this change as I know so many talented women who support our mission and have been excluded from membership due to this requirement. If you didn't get a chance to read the reasoning of AAUW California in support of this change, I'm including their letter below.

Laura Tredinnick, Board President



AAUW California Family,

This April, we will have the opportunity to practice the inclusion that we value by voting to welcome any person who is passionate about equity for women into AAUW, whether they have a degree or not.

AAUW National is proposing a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. On January 20th, the AAUW California Board of Directors unanimously approved a statement of support for the bylaws change.

We'd like to share our reasoning with you.

Our organization was founded in 1881 to advance opportunities for women and to work toward equal treatment with men. While the early members focused on increasing the number of women going to college, they also worked to make employment of women and children safer and began the fight for pay equity. As AAUW evolved to meet women's needs, the organization and its impact grew. Our focus expanded to include advocating for the needs of people of color and individuals/communities in poverty. The efforts of AAUW earned us permanent United Nations (U.N.) observer status which in turn led to AAUW members expanding the fight for civil rights and an overall deeper understanding and appreciation of those who are marginalized.

Throughout the past 143 years, AAUW members never stopped advocating for education while expanding our focus to ensuring policies around maternity leave, reproduction rights, equal pay, and policies against sexual harassment and violence against women. Welcoming those without a degree will not change who we are and what we are working towards- it will enhance our efforts by including anyone who is as passionate as we are about equity for women and girls. AAUW and its eligibility requirements have changed substantially over the years and yet, we still work together and strive to make women's lives better and we will continue to do so for years to come. Treating each other fairly and supporting one another with compassion is the foundation of AAUW and serves as the catalyst for current and future efforts. As we enter a time of uncertainty in our nation, we need to band together and continue to advocate for a better future.

We encourage you to practice the inclusion our founding members worked for and vote "yes"- watch for your ballot in April.

Together in equity,

AAUW California State Board (signed by all board members)

STEM



Branch preparations and Franklin Camp preparations are in full swing for the 2024 Tech Trek. Our Branch has been allocated seven camper slots to Camp Franklin at Sonoma State University. The cost to send these girls this year is \$1300 each and our Tech Trek Fundraising Chair, **Mary Barsony**, has been working hard to solicit sponsorships.

In January, teachers from Healdsburg Junior High School, Windsor Middle School, Washington Middle School and Cali Calmécac submitted a total of 12 names to be considered for the seven camper slots. The parents were notified their daughters were recommended to participate and asked to start the application process. The girls will be interviewed over the weekend of March 9 and 10 and the Tech Trek team will have the tough task in choosing the seven candidates from this group of 12. If you have ever participated in these interviews, you know that it definitely is a tough job. After we have chosen our seven, the names will be submitted to State Tech Trek and our job is pretty much done. There will be a Meet & Greet scheduled prior to the June camp.

If you are interested in learning more about Tech Trek, checkout the STEM page on the Branch website <https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net/stem/>. Or, contact me. I'd be happy to chat with you about the program. See the article below for some opportunities that are available!

Nancy Haiston

Branch Tech Trek Chair
nhaiston@earthlink.net
707-849-1905



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TECH TREK CAMP FRANKLIN SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY June 23 to June 29

Tech Trek Camp Franklin is looking for a few more volunteers.

Engineering Core Teacher

Teach STEM core class to 12- and 13-year-old girls during the week of Tech Trek camp.

Dorm Mom AKA Dorm Monitor

Provide the emotional foundation these girls-becoming-women need while on their Tech Trek adventure. You are both advocates and enforcers—looking out for the girls' best interests, representing their needs, while making sure they get where they need to be and do what they need to do; as well as helping them to have fun, while following the rules and staying safe.

If you have any interest in either of these positions, please contact me. I can provide the selection criteria, roles and responsibilities, qualifications, and commitment expected.

We are sending seven local 7th grade girls to this camp. Please help if you can.

Nancy Haiston
nhaiston@earthlink.net
707-847-1905

March Speaker
Cecily Majerus
CEO of the Marine Mammal Center

In preparation for our April visit to the Marine Mammal Center, we have Cecily Majerus as our March speaker.



Cecily comes to the CEO position after serving on the Board of Directors for the Center for 11 years. Prior to assuming the CEO position, she was Chair of the Board. Cecily brings decades of experience in ocean policy and program implementation. Her focus has been translating scientific findings and turning them into effective policy to provide protection for our environment.

Cecily's environmental policy career began at the international level working on the drafting of the United Nations Law of the Sea Treaty. Her work was to provide protection for the ocean and its resources, as well as support nations who had never been members of an international agreement be actively engaged in the technical solutions.

From the International level, Cecily's focus narrowed to the state and regional through her work to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Serving two Maryland governors as their

Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, she managed Maryland's efforts to restore the Bay as well as working with the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the states of Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia on joint policies and programs.

While serving as the lead for the Principal Staff Committee during Maryland's Chairmanship of the Chesapeake Bay Council, Cecily was able to help establish the goal of significantly reducing nutrients flowing into the Bay from both point and nonpoint sources, thus creating a path toward a healthier bay.

When Cecily moved to California, her landscape focused on the watershed level where she was the Executive Director for the Tuolumne Trust, one of California's Wild and Scenic Rivers, but still a watershed in need of active management. This included working with diverse stakeholders to develop a protection plan for the Clavey river, California's longest undammed tributary.

Cecily's constant through this path has always been the protection of the ocean. In addition, Cecily also served on the board of Ocean Conservancy, twice as board chair, to again work toward developing and implementing policies that will provide long-term and effective protection of our ocean and all who live in it and depend on it.



Monday, March 11
11:30-1:00
Healdsburg Community Center

LUNAFEST Highlights Women Film-Makers



AAUW Petaluma is excited to be presenting the first LUNAFEST film festival in Petaluma on March 19. LUNAFEST has been elevating the work of women filmmakers for over twenty years with a traveling film festival. The program includes seven new films with a wide variety of techniques and perspectives. A discussion of the films will be included to engage the audience in reflection and connection.

Recommended for ages 13+

When: March 19, 3 pm – 5 pm

Where: Ellis Auditorium, Santa Rosa Junior College Petaluma Campus, 680 Sonoma Mountain Parkway, Petaluma, CA 94954

Tickets: \$18 general admission, \$10 student

Purchase tickets at <https://www.aauwpetaluma.com/>

Guests: Suzy Starke German, LUNAFEST Program Director

Mike Traina, SRJC faculty in Film and Media Studies

Preview: Watch the [2023 Season Trailer](#)



AAUW Santa Rosa Public Policy Presents:

PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM TO READ

JOIN US ON SATURDAY MARCH 9 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Finley Community Center, Santa Rosa, Cypress Room



“Something will be offensive to someone in every book, so you’ve got to fight.” Judy Blume

Panelists Deborah Doyle, Sonoma County Library Commission and Leona Judson, League of Women Voters will discuss:

- Why Does It Matter: Intellectual Freedom and Access to Materials
- Giving All A Voice: Minorities, Teens, and LGBTQ
- Protecting Librarians and Teachers
- Review of pending legislation to protect against book banning
- The importance of School Board elections in maintaining diverse, inclusive and historically accurate curriculum and fighting against book bans

Door Prizes
Banned Book Display
Refreshments

Contact Taryn Young for more information: tarynhikes@att.net

Social Activities



Spring Wine 'N Dine

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Venues to be determined. Watch for the Eblast in March! Each Wine 'N Dine is open to interested members and their guest; we always welcome new hosts and guests. These events are an enjoyable opportunity to get together with others.

Cindy Powers and Diane Burnley, Healdsburg AAUW Wine 'N Dine Co-chairs



Lunch Bunch

On a wet and rainy January 31, we all (20 of us) met at Bollywood Kitchen for Lunch Bunch to sample and enjoy East Indian food. We were amazed at the amount of food as we sampled and enjoyed all the entrees. Service was warm, accommodating and welcoming. We created a congenial atmosphere to enjoy seeing old friends and meet new ones.

See you all at our next Lunch Bunch in the Spring!! Details to come!

Scarlett Wood & Pam Handley, Your Lunch Bunch Committee



Social Activities

Wine 'N Dine Winter Dinner



On Saturday evening, February 3, Healdsburg AAUW held their Winter Wine 'N Dine dinner. Five of our AAUW members hosted 31 members and friends/spouses in their homes. It was a rainy evening, and the warmth of each host's home welcomed their guests. The hosts who generously invited us into their homes for this Winter dinner included **GINNA ZOELLNER, RONNIE DEVITT, CHARLENE LUKS, LINDA CLARK, and MICHELLE REGAN.**

Everyone enjoyed an array of delicious foods and wines, accompanied with interesting, fun, and often "getting to know each other" conversations.

Here are photos from the gatherings:



Scholarship Success Story

Ingrid Stearns

2011 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC scholarship



My name is Ingrid Stearns and my pronouns are she/her. I currently live on the land of the Southern Pomo, on the Santa Rosa Plain, in the Roseland Creek watershed. I am French-Canadian in descent (13th generation), born and raised in the northeast.

I own a home and reside with my life partner, my 10-year-old child who lost his father at the start of the pandemic, and my mother who first learned English at age 18 and is suffering from dementia. Our circumstances are

challenging, and very much rely on the education I received and the income it allows me to earn so that I can care for my family.

As someone who was identified and educated as a gifted child, I graduated high school a few weeks after I turned 17. I didn't want to attend college and acquire huge debts without knowing what I wanted to do. So, I traveled across the country and spent what would have been my college years gaining experience in the real world. At age 23, I entered a Buddhist work-study program in far Northern California, where I stayed for 12 years at the headquarters of a world-wide nonprofit. Due to my responsibilities working in the administration, I began taking online classes through Shasta College that were relevant and informative to my daily work. It started with one class in accounting and ended up as an AS in Business. I transferred to Santa Rosa Junior College for my final semester and took two elective classes (Cultural Anthropology and California Geography) that inspired me to want to continue my studies to meet the requirements for transfer to a CSU.

I received an AAUW scholarship over a dozen years ago, when I was a re-entry student with no savings, working my way through college after having spent a decade in a work-study program that earned me no income. This generous scholarship helped enable me to meet some basic expenses so that I could work part-time and have time for my studies, without acquiring debt to do it. I lived frugally but I was very proud that my hard work and diligence, combined with the generosity of the AAUW and other forward thinkers, made an education affordable and possible.

After receiving an AA in Environmental Studies at SRJC I transferred to Sonoma State University and majored in Environmental Studies and Planning with a Biology focus and minor. I had many internships while in school, and one of them ended up turning into permanent employment. I started working with Sonoma Land Trust in fall of 2010 as a hike assistant intern at the newly acquired Jenner Headlands Preserve on the Sonoma Coast. After a year of internship, I was hired to coordinate their hikes program throughout Sonoma County. I have now been with them for over 13 years and am their Public Programs Manager. I schedule and arrange for public and community group hikes throughout a dozen preserves and lands that have been protected for conservation. Each year we offer more than 50 hikes and bring nearly 1,000 people out to discover these places and learn about land conservation. I very much enjoy my work and it is super inspiring to be making a difference for the future.

Thank you for thinking of future generations and continuing to help give students the opportunity to pursue their education and dream big dreams. It makes a difference not just in the year that you give but the effects continue on for generations.

IN MEMORIAM CHARLOTTE (SHALLY) SCHULTZ



Charlotte (Shally) Schultz passed away at her home on Friday, January 12, with her family by her side. Shally had struggled with heart and other issues for the past few years. Shally and her husband, Wally, retired in Healdsburg in 2006.

Before health issues slowed her down, Shally actively participated in AAUW and was also a popular member of the Healdsburg Garden Club. Shally was an early leader of Reading Rocks and a valued committee member of the Homes Tour for at least five years, from 2014 to 2018. She was one of the original members of the Thursday afternoon book club and often hosted the group in the beautiful aviary setting of her home.

Kim Alexander, Communications Director

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

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