

# The Grapevine

April 2024

Volume 39, Number 8

## President's Message

Hello AAUW Members!

One of the most interesting things I did as an AAUW Member this month was attend the Healdsburg High School internship presentations. Each room of evaluators listened to and saw a presentation from six students who had spent six days interning with a local business. Seeing their presentations gave me real hope for the upcoming generation. The breadth of their understanding which was gained in those six short days was truly impressive. It was interesting to see the different fields that students interning with the same business decided to pursue. In our group, they ranged from real estate to business to marketing to engineering. It was wonderful to see how many AAUW members were there volunteering as evaluators. I encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity next year as I found it so rewarding and interesting.

### Our Spring Fundraiser

As you know, our annual Homes Tour has been suspended since the pandemic and we hope to bring it back next year. However, that has left us without a needed source of revenue for our Scholarship Programs.

We are thrilled that Montage Resort has stepped up and offered to host a Garden Party fundraiser for us this year. The date is **Sunday, April 28**. See the eBlast you recently received or go to our [website](#) to purchase tickets. I know there are lots of events happening in April, but please try to attend **and bring a friend! One hundred percent of ticket proceeds are tax deductible.**

### Cultural Event

Don't miss the trip to the Marine Mammal Center on April 11. For those of you who attended our March Speaker Series, you know that this is a busy time of year at the center.

### Climate Fest

Once again we will participate in the Climate Fest on Sunday, April 21. We are looking for volunteers to staff the table. Please contact **Ty Benoit** at [tyrabenoit@gmail.com](mailto:tyrabenoit@gmail.com) if you're interested in volunteering.

### 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**. Along with the Petaluma and Santa Rosa Branch Presidents, 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 have included their letter again as I feel this change is so important. Look for an email from AAUW National to vote on this important issue.

**Laura Tredinnick**, Board President



MONTAGE HEALDSBURG INVITES YOU TO

# THE GARDEN PARTY

IN SUPPORT OF HEALDSBURG AAUW'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APRIL

28

3PM - 5PM

100 MONTAGE WAY, HEALDSBURG

small bites, wines, property tours and more

Montage Healdsburg graciously supports Healdsburg AAUW's scholarship programs through this event sponsorship. Proceeds will advance AAUW's mission: empowering college women through scholarships, enhancing local education initiatives and providing STEM education for middle and high school girls.

*Tickets are \$150 per person. Please note no on-site tickets will be available as space is limited.*



Sign up at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/wx26h7p>

**Bring a friend!!!**

# Climate Fest!

**2024**

**April 21**

**12 to 4PM**



**HEALDSBURG  
PLAZA**

**For more information:**  
[www.climateactionhealdsburg.org/](http://www.climateactionhealdsburg.org/)  
Facebook: Healdsburg Climate Fest  
or scan the qr code



*Climate Action*



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)



## **YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE**

Soon members will be asked to vote on a change to our bylaws recommended by the national AAUW Board of Directors and Governance Committee. The objective is to remove the degree requirement for membership, thereby opening eligibility to any individual who supports the AAUW mission and pays their annual dues.

Against removing the degree requirement:

AAUW is one of the leading advocates for women's rights in Washington DC. We are highly respected as an educated group of people. This is our brand. This is what differentiates us from the other organizations. We do not view this as elitist. Maybe some of us encountered several speed bumps and worked very hard to get our college degrees. We are proud of this. We are great examples for our young people who are questioning whether to go to college.

Membership in many nonprofit organizations is down across the US. AAUW National is struggling financially, and this is their attempt to get more members and more dues. This proposition has been on the ballot for the last 8 or so years and has been rejected each time. At one point, it was voted to accept AA degrees into our membership.

Why do they keep asking us? Please vote NO so we can retain our brand and our influence in Washington DC.

**Liz Loebel**, President 2009-2011

**Michelle Regan**

**Carol Hazlett**

**Yvonne Schell**

Voting is available April 5. Information on how to vote will come directly to you via email.



## Mission Based Programs



### Reading Rocks is starting at Mattie Washburn!

Volunteers will be reading one-on-one with students in first or second grade classes. If you are interested in volunteering, all you need is a TB clearance. Contact Catherine Mock at [ckmock54@gmail.com](mailto:ckmock54@gmail.com).

**Catherine Mock**

Director of Mission Based Programs



## STEM



Interviews for the June 2024 Tech Trek camp took place the weekend of March 9-10. Seven girls were chosen to attend and we have selected two alternates in case another slot becomes available or one of the original girls chosen has to drop out. The girls are very excited as are their parents. The selection decision was difficult as these are extraordinary 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls with a deep interest in STEM subjects.

In April or May, an eBlast will be sent to our membership asking for volunteers to help put on this wonderful event during the week of June 23 to June 29. A minimum commitment is about 4 hours to maybe monitor a class or help on a field trip or another activity where more adult participation and supervision is required. The choice is yours.

If you have any questions about the Tech Trek program or specifically about this event, please check out the STEM page on the [website](#) or contact me, **Nancy Haiston** at [nhaiston@earthlink.net](mailto:nhaiston@earthlink.net).

## Speaker Series

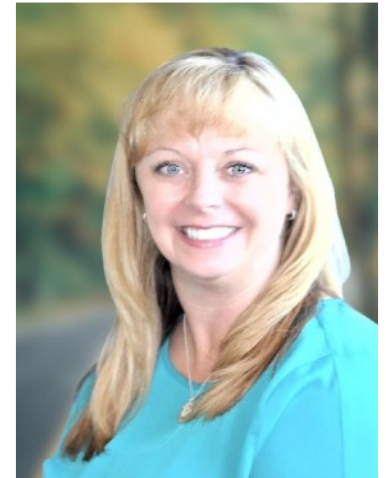
### April Speaker

**Susannah (Sue) Labbe CEO**

**Healdsburg's Alliance Medical Center**

The Alliance Medical Center is the only full service medical resource supporting low income, underinsured, and uninsured women as well as their families in northern Sonoma County.

Sue Labbe became the Alliance's CEO in 2022 after serving as the Center's Medical Director and Chief Medical Officer. Prior to joining the Alliance 2017, Sue assisted underserved populations for 15 years in the Central Valley.



The Alliance provides high quality, culturally sensitive medical care to more than 10,000 patients annually. **Its Women's Health program offers preventive and obstetric care as well as education for girls and women on taking control of their own bodies, and reproductive options.** Its Behavioral Health program supports women who have suffered trauma, societal repression and offers ways to make positive changes in their circumstances.

Founded in 1971 by community volunteers who saw a need to provide healthcare to farmworkers and their families, the Alliance (a Federally Qualified Health Center) operates three primary care clinics in Healdsburg and Windsor. Services are provided to anyone regardless of ability to pay and regardless of insurance/no insurance or Federal status. Their patients include hardworking agriculture, retail and hospitality workers and their families. A large percentage of their patients are uninsured because their employers do not offer health insurance or the insurance is not affordable.

In addition to her normal duties, Sue led the Alliance's critically important COVID-19 response, including working with numerous local community organizations, to equitably deliver over **38,000 doses of COVID** vaccines to community members, many of whom otherwise would not have had access to this potentially lifesaving resource.

**Monday, April 8, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm**  
**Healdsburg Community Center, 1557 Healdsburg Ave.**

**Bring a brown bag lunch — The presentation will begin at noon,**  
**followed by a brief update of AAUW chapter activities.**

**Look for the eBlast to RSVP. Members and one guest are invited to**  
**attend.**

## Meet Our New Members

### Wendy Mogel

Wendy grew up in New York City and lived her adult life in Los Angeles until moving to Healdsburg with her husband in 2021. She has two daughters and twin grandsons. Wendy graduated with a PhD from the Wright Institute. This education provided for a lifetime of practicing clinical psychology as well as the expertise to author three parenting books that were published in multiple languages. Wendy's mission from the start of her career was to protect and promote resourcefulness, family citizenship, adventurousness and exuberance in children. Her passion for writing and speaking has allowed her to travel to national and international venues speaking on many topics during her career. Recent ventures include a podcast called "Nuture vs Nuture" and a talk called "Laughing Matters: The Art and Science of Humor for Healthier Aging"!



A new focus for Wendy is studying the "yes/and" technique of improv comedy as an effective way to communicate with dementia patients ("My dad published the National Lampoon Magazine. He died at 100 in September. My mom is 95. They both provided lots of material.") She also studies the light side of the dark disease of Parkinson's ("material provided daily by living with my movie, TV, crime writer husband, Michael Tolkin").

Joining AAUW was influenced by her neighbor Mary Fitzgerald and also her desire to volunteer in the Reading Rocks program at Healdsburg Elementary School - "it's heaven." She's found Healdsburg to be a town where the ease, candor and friendliness of the people is an extra bonus.

Her favorite author Dorothy Canfield Fisher and book *Understood Betsy* is the story of a pale, city girl, with a math phobia, and bad dreams who's whisked away to rural Vermont. When picked up by her uncle at the train station he immediately hands her the reins of the horse. Betsy's transformation begins!



## Spring Meeting & Celebration



Join your fellow members to celebrate our branch and individual accomplishments of the year.

**Saturday, May 18, 11:30 am** @ the home of Jan and Brent Stanley, 437 West Dry Creek Road

### **WHAT TO BRING :**

A-H : Bring a dessert

I-O : Bring one bottle of wine

P-Z : Bring a salad or appetizer

**DON'T FORGET** : A hat (it will be sunny) and your own picnic pack : plate, flatware, and glass,

**RSVP** : By May 8 to [kate@hiddenhill.com](mailto:kate@hiddenhill.com)



We are in need of volunteer(s) for the Spring Celebration. Our order from Encore Rentals in Windsor needs to be picked up on Friday May 17 and returned on Monday May 20. A pickup truck would be sufficient to deliver to our venue.

Please contact **Barbara Reid** if you are able to help us out ! [blsreid@gmail.com](mailto:blsreid@gmail.com), 503-860-4371

## New Travel Group



Several members have expressed an interest in establishing a group that is looking for future travel partners as well as a sharing of information about previous memorable trips, including itineraries, travel groups, travel insurance options, and future "bucket list" travel.

Please email Dena Lash at [denalash@gmail.com](mailto:denalash@gmail.com) if you would like to be on our email list.

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10 at 5:00 pm. Please let Dena know if you will be joining us for that meeting. There will be snacks! We look forward to hearing from you.

**Dena Lash, Liz Loebel, Yvonne Schell**



### Scholarship Success Story

Samantha Moberly

2019 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship



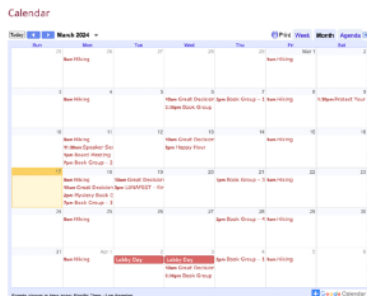
I am very grateful to have received an AAUW scholarship upon graduating from Windsor High School in 2019. Certainly, the financial assistance was a huge help, but more than that, the scholarship was a huge confidence boost to have an organization of successful individuals who believed in me and wanted to see me succeed. Throughout my life, I have been fortunate to have certain people, including those at AAUW, believe in me and encourage me forward, and this has cumulated in an inner confidence that I can do whatever I set my mind to.

After graduating, I went on to get my B.S. in mechanical engineering from Cal Poly, SLO. With the help of the scholarship, I was able to get away with mostly only working during the summers and having more time during the term to focus on my studies.

While pursuing this degree I decided to pick up an entrepreneurship minor, thinking the business and engineering combination would set me up to solve any problem. Through this minor, I found that my projects in several courses all converged on community. I spent several months interviewing different demographics to understand where the need was greatest and found a shocking lack of ways for recent college graduates to find friends. About 1/3 of recent grads each year leave strong college communities for (now often hybrid or remote) jobs in new cities, so it is not surprising that they are among those experiencing the highest rates of loneliness. Currently, the primary solutions for meeting people are apps. As a firm believer that real connection takes place in person, rather than digitally, I saw an opportunity to help people find what is considered the number one indicator of human happiness: positive relationships.

So, in what some would consider a shift from engineering (I always considered it a problem-solving degree) I decided to combat the problem. After graduating in June of 2023, I began working with Cal Poly's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to build a startup called Social Spark. With the help of many fantastic mentors, we have been able to curate small-groups, extended social events that are proving effective at sparking new friendships. So far, we have had seven paid events across 5 different cities, for a total of 60 customers. We recruit and train group leaders, who act as event facilitators and connectors, and have received over 50 applications. The goal is to become the most trusted and effective company for helping people build lasting friendships, and we are excited to expand to more geographies and demographics.

Now an ME college graduate, a solo founder, and a female CEO, I have grown tremendously as a leader and person in the past few years, and so much of it I can attribute to the people I have had support me. When you grow up with people who encourage you that you can do anything, over time you believe it. As I am currently fundraising for my startup and bringing on investors, I can especially appreciate the bet that the AAUW members took on me so early. I am so excited to continue to learn and work hard, so that I can create an impact in this space that I am passionate about, and later hopefully create an impact like you all have for the next generation. Thank you all for investing in me and helping me grow over these last few years.



Did you know you can add the AAUW Healdsburg branch calendar to yours? If you have a Google calendar, click on the “plus” Google Calendar icon on the lower right corner and a pop-up will ask if you want to add the calendar for viewing!

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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