

The Grapevine

May 2024

Volume 39, Number 9

President's Message

Hello AAUW Members!

Eclipse!

Dell and I were in the path of totality for the recent total eclipse. It was amazing to see and experience it with my Texas cousins in Austin. The clouds were an issue all morning, but magically parted as the eclipse entered totality. We also visited San Antonio for the first time, and yes, we went to the Alamo, ate barbeque, and heard lots of music.

Garden Party at Montage

I am thankful to the management at Montage for their generosity in hosting a Spring fundraiser for AAUW. I am also thankful to all of you who bought tickets to the event to support our scholarships for next year. Thanks to you, we met our fundraising goal.

2025 Homes Tour

We have been talking this year about resurrecting the Homes Tour as it has been a stable fundraiser for us for many years and has become part of our brand. We have a community member who has stepped up to offer his home and help us find other homes for the tour. So, the question becomes, "Do we have enough interest from the membership to put this on once again?" You will receive a survey from me in May to help assess your interest and introduce new members to the variety of positions that help make this event happen.

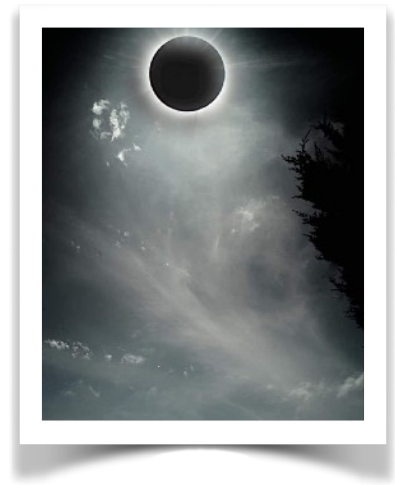
End-of-Year Meeting

Once again, **Jan Stanley** has offered her lovely home for our end-of-year meeting on May 18. I hope to see you there and thank you in person for your efforts on behalf of our organization and the girls and women we help. **Kate Van Ness** and **Barbara Reid** are busy making plans for our celebration together.

Deadline to Vote

The deadline to vote for new National Board Members and the amendment to the bylaws to eliminate the degree requirement is May 15 at noon. You already know my position! Please take a moment to make your vote count. You should have received an email from National with the voting link on April 3. Check your inbox if you have not already voted.

Laura Tredinnick, Board President





May Speaker
SMART Train General Manager Eddy Cumins

Now is an exciting time for the SMART train. It's on its way north to Windsor and Healdsburg! We have fortunately snagged SMART's General Manager Eddy Cumins to tell us about SMART's successes, opportunities and future. Eddy will be joined by SMART's Eric Lucan (Marin County Supervisor) and Vice Chair Melanie Bagby (Cloverdale Councilwoman and member of Sonoma County Mayors and Council Members Association). You won't want to miss this impressive line-up of local leaders who will answer all our questions. For instance, did you know the SMART train is free to seniors and youths under 18 with a Clipper Card right now? Want to know what our Healdsburg station will be like? Or when the Windsor station will be in operation?

We had over 30 members and guests attend our April 8th presentation. Sue Labbe, CEO of Healdsburg's Alliance Medical Center gave us a moving overview of the Alliance's extensive women's health programs, giving examples of how Alliance partnered with local businesses and organizations to make an impact on the health of low income, under-insured and uninsured women and their families in Northern Sonoma County. Thank you **Mary Fitzgerald** for arranging for Sue to come speak to us. And thank you everyone for supporting our Speaker Series. After our May session, we will take a break for the summer.

Monday, May 13
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Healdsburg Community Center
1557 Healdsburg Avenue

The program will begin at noon, followed by a brief update on AAUW chapter activities. RSVP to the upcoming eBlast

We encourage you to bring a friend!

North Bay Children's Center (NBCC) Speaker Series Recap & Volunteer Opportunities



Susan Gilmore, President and CEO of North Bay Children's Center (NBCC) was featured at the AAUW Speaker Series on February 12. For the past 33 years, NBCC has provided quality infant, toddler, and preschool education for low-income families. High quality early education is critically important for children and a key predictor of success in school

and in life; NBCC has been a leader in this field. Susan also spoke about the Garden of Eatin program, featuring a garden in all 13 centers. These gardens not only introduce children to healthy eating and where their food comes from, but also helps to feed their families. NBCC is becoming a leader in climate action, and Susan was a featured speaker in a national conference on the subject. The members who attended were so impressed with the work that NBCC is doing for children and the environment.

The Healdsburg Center at Fitch Mountain Elementary School would welcome volunteers from our AAUW branch to do the following:

- Reading books to the children weekly (we have four classrooms)
- Watering the garden
- Helping with weekly Raising a Reader book bag organization
- Distribution of fruits and vegetables
- Meal/snack food prep

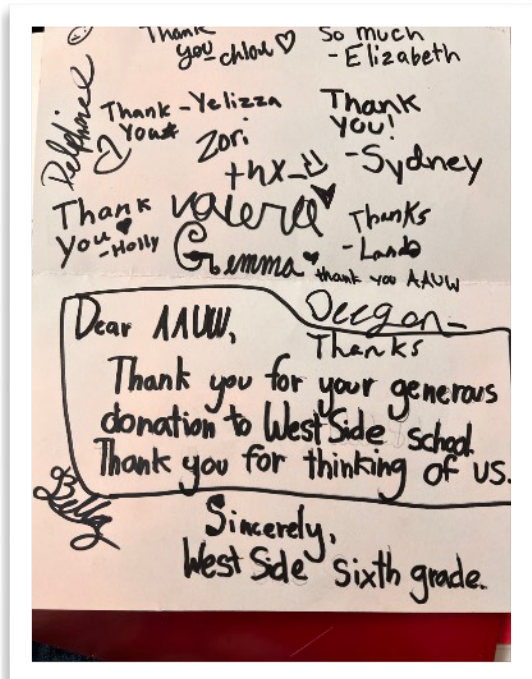
If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Joleynn Smith, the center director and set up a time to visit or call. Her email is jsmith@nbcc.net.

Michelle Regan and Beth Wolk

Holiday Gift Supplies

We wanted the members to know what your generous donations for the Holiday Gift Supply drive for the schools in Healdsburg were able to provide. The money provided the students at West Side with new outdoor equipment for recess. Games and activities for rainy day recesses were purchased for students at Fitch Mountain Campus.

Here are a couple of thank you notes from students.



Beth Wolk, Holiday Gift Supply Coordinator
Cathy Mock, Mission Based Programs Director

Meet Our New Members



Maryann Cavallo

Maryann graduated from Healdsburg High School in 1965 and completed her BA at San Francisco State University on a partial scholarship. She continued there for a teaching credential and returned later in her career, achieving a MA in Educational Administration and graduated summa cum laude. Her teaching career included Healdsburg Unified, San Francisco Unified, and New Haven Unified.

Maryann started in San Francisco Unified in the first years of integration through busing in the inner city of Hunter's Point and began her journey of commitment to equity. Equity has been a lifelong goal in her role as an administrator in education. Moving to Evergreen School District in East San Jose, she served as principal, director of instruction, assistant superintendent and eventually deputy superintendent. Retiring in 2004 led to work at San Jose State University for five years in the Education Department. Returning to Sonoma County, she became involved in Alexander Valley Ladies Aid in an effort to reconnect with the local community. This organization allowed for Maryann to continue her work with issues of equity. During the past two years, Maryann has served as the president of Alexander Valley Ladies Aid.

Joining AAUW was inspired by Laura Tredinnick and a match was made! As a woman of the 60s, she watched the role of women change dramatically in finding "our voice to make change". Maryann is thrilled to see the opportunities for careers, lifestyles, and economic independence and is excited about the choices for young women today

"My advice to young women is to dream big! You can be anything you dream. You stand on the shoulders of women who have fought the good fight. You should be ready to reap the rewards."

**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



AAUW Healdsburg Supports The Marine Mammal Center



Spring is a critical time to ensure the survival of marine mammals, especially newborns, and AAUW experienced first-hand the extent of that need. Our March Speaker's Series featured Cecily Majeres, CEO of The Marine Mammal Center, who described its policy and program implementation efforts. Then, on April 11, 30 pro-active AAUW cultural advocates "roared" down Highway 101 taking the last exit before the Golden Gate and through the magical tunnel into the National Recreation area. Destination: the world's largest marine mammal hospital.

The Marine Mammal Center's mission focuses on advancing global ocean conservation. And, 95 percent of its nearly \$10 million dollar budget is

provided through generous tax-deductible donations from the San Francisco Bay Area's environmentally conscious community.

Our Cultural Committee (**Liz Loebel** and **Judith Olney**) arranged a private tour of this education, research and lifesaving operation, run by doctors, researchers, and nearly 1,000 volunteers working along the California coast and at the Hawaii satellite operation.

Although the public can visit for free on certain days, arranging a private or semi-private tour is totally worth the small donation. The guided tour provides a far deeper educational dive into marine ecosystem health, and the role mammal research plays in our understanding of environmental stress-related human health risks, including cancer.

Consider taking your "Grands" (best for 10-year olds and above) or friends with a childlike curiosity this spring when the Center is full of abandoned or injured pups – the cacophony of sounds alone will engage them. Who knows? The experience may trigger the interests of a future scientist.

Another way of making a contribution to this worthy cause is to volunteer - there's a full range of opportunities, from administrative, driving and animal-handling positions, all with ample training. Or you can support these scientists and ocean stewards, dedicated to protecting our fragile ocean ecosystems for future generations, through a tax-deductible donation.

We thank our amazing and knowledgeable guides: Dawn and Mitchell. The Center staff loved our intellectual curiosity and laughed at our inability to stay to the right of the yellow line. Hear us roar beside a (mercifully immobile) male elephant seal!

PS: If you have an idea for future Cultural Excursions in the Bay Area, please contact either **Judith Olney** (MilestonesMet@gmail.com) or **Liz Loebel** (LizLoebel@gmail.com).



NEXT CULTURAL EVENT

May 15 and May 23

10:30-Noon



Our next Cultural Event will be to Recology's brand new, high-tech recycling facility in Santa Rosa. The new, \$35 million advanced recycling center opened this month and will serve the Marin-Sonoma region. It includes 109 sorting conveyor belts, which, end to end, would run a mile and a half long.

"That is the magic of this plant: how you combine modern recycling equipment, optical sorters, ballistic sorters, and then hand sorting by recycling workers to maximize recycling," said Robert Reed, Recology's Public Information Officer.

We are having two tours as each one is limited to 12 each. First come first served. An email went out a few days ago asking for signups. If you have not signed up, please email milestonesmet@gmail.com to signup.

Hope to see you there.

Liz Loebel and **Judith Olney**, Co-chairs Cultural Events

Spring Wine 'N Dine

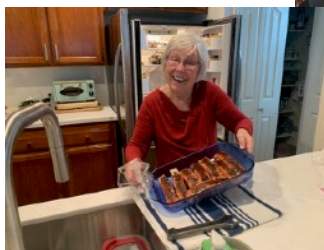
Our **Healdsburg AAUW Spring Wine 'N Dine Dinner** was held on Saturday, April 13. This was our third Wine 'N Dine event for 2023-2024. Five **Healdsburg AAUW** members hosted, inviting **AAUW** guests into their homes and coordinating the menus with their guests. Our hosts who so generously and enthusiastically shared their homes for this event included members **Jan Stanley, Ginna Zoellner, Neita Comings, Barbara Reid, and Tricia Coxhead.**

Delicious seasonal foods and delectable wines were enjoyed, with a different menu served at each host home. Reports are that those attending had a wonderful time getting to know one another in addition to sharing interesting and fun conversations. As can be seen in the photos, fun was had by all!

Enjoy the photos from the gatherings.



Jan and Brent Stanley's home



Ginna Zoellner's home



Tricia and Jerry Coxhead's home



Barbara and Dan Reid's home



Neita and Bill Comings' home

Our next **Wine 'N Dine** will be a brunch on Sunday, June 23. The event is open to all vaccinated AAUW members and their guests, and we always welcome new hosts! Look for more information to come in an eBlast in late May.



Summer Wine 'N Dine

It's a Brunch!

Sunday, June 23

Venues TBD. Watch for an eBlast late May

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

Mariel Mondragon-Becerra

My name is Mariel Mondragon-Becerra and I was awarded the generous AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship in 2019. This scholarship helped me embark on my first year at UC Davis with minimal financial stress, allowing me to devote my first year of university to discover how to thrive academically and professionally in a large university as a first-generation student. The financial support during my first year of university compounded into a pursuit of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities throughout my four years of university.

My first year at UC Davis was a continuous flux between change and adaptation. UC Davis operates under the quarter system, with each quarter spanning 10 weeks. Adjusting to a fast-paced learning environment was difficult, but during my first year it was most difficult as each quarter was vastly different. My first quarter was normal with in-person lectures, my second quarter was a transition from in-person to online/remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and my third quarter was strictly remote learning. Every 10 weeks I was starting from scratch. However, constantly having to succeed under varying conditions set a strong foundation for me going forward in my undergraduate career.

Throughout my time at UC Davis, I took advantage of the bountiful opportunities available to explore my interest in environmental protection and climate change mitigation. I conducted research on chinook salmon conservation, phenological adaptation to climate change in over 70 native California grasses, and the possible use of poplar trees as biofuel for jets. Furthermore, I studied abroad in Sweden, Denmark, and Germany, learning how sustainable cities are designed to fit the needs of residents, while mitigating the negative environmental effects from land use and population growth. Most recently, in 2023, I interned in New Zealand at an engineering consulting firm to learn how to mitigate flooding and other water management issues under intensified rainfall conditions due to climate change.

After four years, during the summer of 2023, I graduated from UC Davis with a B.S. in Environmental Science and Management and a Minor in Spanish. Today, I work as a Research Assistant for UC Davis helping address California waste diversion goals and climate change adaptation through research on the viability of organic amendments to improve soil health in farmland throughout the state.



The Grapevine be on summer break during the months of July and August.

Submit your articles for the June issue by May 15!

The deadline for the September issue is August 15.

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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.

