

The Grapevine

June 2024

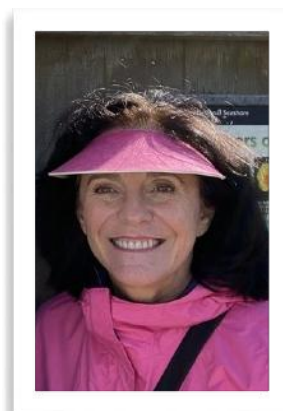
Volume 39, Number 10

President's Message

Hello AAUW Members!

Trek is on Deck!

Our eight Tech Trek girls are ready to go. It is easier than ever for you to volunteer for short stints (as small as three hours) at this year's Tech Trek at Sonoma State between June 23 and June 29. See the May 13 email to find open slots and sign up online. I can hardly wait to experience this! Once again, our members **Mary Barsony** and **Mickey Sarquis** will teach courses at Tech Trek in person and virtually. Mary will also be in charge of the Observatory, which is one of the favorite field trip activities of the attendees. In other Tech Trek News, I say a hearty thanks to **Nancy Haiston** for her many years of Tech Trek leadership. Thank you, Nancy. **Anna Laura Jansma** and **Debbi Crapeau** will be taking over Tech Trek leadership.



Don't forget to renew your membership

You should have received an email from AAUW National on April 25, with instructions for renewing your membership for next year. If you prefer to renew by check, you may send a check for \$125 payable to Healdsburg AAUW to our PO Box 1064, Healdsburg, CA 95448.

2025 Homes Tour

Over the summer we will be evaluating resurrecting the Homes Tour. Reminder: Look for a survey from me coming to your Inbox soon to help assess your interest and introduce new members to the variety of positions that help make the Homes Tour happen.

End-of-Year Meeting

What a wonderful time getting together and celebrating the many things we have done together this past year!

Speakers Series to Continue Next Fall

Although the Monday Speakers Series is finished for this year, we plan to continue it again next year. Thanks to **Celeste Plaister** and **Michelle Regan** for stepping up to launch this new program for our members.

Farewell and Thanks

This is my last newsletter article as President. I am thankful to all those who shared their talents and worked so hard alongside me over the past two years. Special thanks goes to the board members who consistently showed up and offered their creative ideas. Special recognition goes to **Tyra Benoit**, outgoing Public Policy Director, and **Kate Van Ness**, outgoing Past President, for their many contributions. The board and I will miss you both.

Laura Tredinnick, Board President

2023-24 Goals and Achievements

Each year, the board sets goals for the upcoming year. Here are the goals and how we met them.

Board Goals and Achievements

- **Improve End-of-year member donations from the current 30% to 75%.**
 - End-of-year member donations increased from 30% to 56% of members donating.
- **Support a semi-annual action to support DEI.**
 - We held a January event focused on Reproductive Choice and showed the film "Fly So Far" about how women in El Salvador are being prosecuted and imprisoned for miscarriages. The film was followed by a panel of local doctors and a representative from Planned Parenthood discussing the state of reproductive health globally, nationally, and in Sonoma County. Additional participation and collaboration with Indivisible Healdsburg and Sister District was part of the event.
 - We showed the same film to a Spanish-speaking audience on May 17 at the Community Center.
- **Continue to develop a long-term fundraising plan.**
 - Several ideas were researched. None looked promising for long-term fundraising. Our traditional Homes Tour is being looked at again. In the past, the Homes Tour has raised between \$35,000 and \$60,000 annually.
- **Develop a plan for the Speakers Series by December 31 and implement it by early 2024.**
 - The Speakers Series commenced in January, with monthly speakers. Our last speaker was Eddy Cummins, the General Manager of SMART, (the SMART train), on May 13.
- **Pursue possible development of new interest groups such as Art, Garden, Mahjong, and Movie.**
 - A new Travel Group has been formed.

What else we achieved!

- **Achievements**
 - **Scholarships - \$84,000**
 - High School Scholarships -- 12 x \$2,000 = \$24,000
 - JNR Foundation Scholarships - 8 x \$4,000 = \$32,000
 - SRJC Reentry Scholarships - 5 x \$4,000 = \$20,000
 - Garren Fund Scholarships - 2 x \$4,000 = \$8,000
 - **Public Policy**
 - Reproductive Choice Event in English and Spanish
 - Participated in Petaluma's Gun Violence Event
 - Letter writing to congressional swing districts
 - Climate Fest
 - **Membership**
 - Continued new member socials and orientation
 - Continued buddies program
 - Membership now 189 members

- **Administration**
 - Started new Speakers Series
 - Revised Bylaws
 - Wrote article for the Press Democrat re: Gun Violence Event
 - Maintained a stable budget
- **STEM**
 - 8 Tech Trek Scholarships awarded
 - Participated in Climate Fest
 - TTAG Expanded
- **Social**
 - Happy Hour – Montagne Russe, Longboard, Merriam
 - Lunch Bunch – The Matheson, Bollywood, Charlie’s
 - Cultural Events
 - SMART Train to Larkspur
 - Marine Mammal Center
 - SR Recycling Center
 - Wine ‘N Dine – October February, April, June
 - Holiday Party, Fall Kickoff, Spring Celebration
- **Mission-Based Programs**
 - AAUW volunteers at Junior Internship Night at High School
 - AAUW volunteers at Financial Literacy Night
 - Added Reading Rocks at Mattie Washburn; this program is now at 3 schools
 - Gave books to all first-grade children at West Side and Healdsburg Elementary
 - Raised and delivered school supplies funding of \$410
- **Fundraising**
 - Raised nearly \$30,000 from end-of-year appeal
 - Received grants of \$32,000
 - Exceeded our Spring Event (at Montage) goal by \$2,600
 - Met all target fundraising dollar amounts
- **Communications**
 - Kept members informed via over 100 e-blasts
 - All events were listed on the website
 - Ten Grapevine Issues including New Member Bios and Scholarship Success Stories
 - Front page article re: Tech Trek in the Healdsburg Tribune
 - Caring cards sent to members
 - Social Media Posts

I am so proud of all the work that was done and all we accomplished together this past year!

Laura Tredinnick, Board President

Camp Franklin Day Volunteers Needed



Did you see the May eBlast which asked for volunteers for Tech Trek Camp at Sonoma State University? Have you signed up yet? There is still time. If you are interested in volunteering a half day to be a class monitor to help out in core classes, workshop and field trips, add your name to the SignUp Genius schedule.

Here is the link: [Class Monitor Sign Up](#)

Please note: for insurance purposes, all daily volunteers need to be AAUW members and all volunteers need to complete the Volunteer Conduct Agreement form [HERE](#). The annual Volunteer Conduct Agreement form is easy to complete. Your role would be a “Tech Trek branch team member”.

I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to help out and learn more about this wonderful program. If you have difficulty with the online sign-up process, contact: Virginia Hewgley, Tech Trek Committee (Pleasant Hill/Martinez AAUW), vhewgley@astound.net, 925-768-4417.

Please contact me with any questions.

Nancy Haiston, Tech Trek Chair, Healdsburg Branch
nhaiston@earthlink.net, 707-849-1905



Tech Trek 2024



Eight 7th grade girls have been selected to attend Tech Trek Camp Franklin the week of June 23. On Tuesday, May 14, six of the campers attended the Meet & Greet at the Healdsburg Public Library along with parents, teachers, Tech Trek donors, branch board members and TTAGer's. TTAGer's, or Tech Trek camp alumni, did a wonderful presentation about their individual experiences at previous TT camps, as well as participated in a “circle” discussion with the new campers making them feel welcome, answering questions and going into more detail about their camp

experience and “life after TT camp”. The TT campers were presented with a ‘goodie bag’ backpack (donated by Keysight Technologies) and filled with such things as books, notebooks, pens, water bottle, hand sanitizer, etc.

Selecting the girls who will attend Camp and coordinating a successful spring Meet & Greet and fall panel discussion requires a team effort. The individuals that made this year so successful were **Anna Laura Jasma**, **Debbi Crapeau**, **Maureen McCalla** and **Yvonne Schell**. Thank You!

Being TT Chair has been a rewarding experience for me and after three years, it is time to move on. TT 2025 will be co-chaired by **Debbi Crapeau** and **Anna Laura Jasma**. **Maureen McCalla** has moved out of state and has left the team. Her expertise and dedication will be greatly missed. In her place we'd like to welcome **Annabel Bently!**

For those of you who are new to AAUW, Tech Trek is a week-long STEM camp for 7th grade girls. To learn more about the program, go to our website: <https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net/stem>

Nancy Haiston, Tech Trek Chair

Shining a Light on Clean Energy: TTAG's Impact at Climate Fest

The Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) illuminated a pathway toward a cleaner, more sustainable future by spotlighting Piezoelectricity. Inspired by its potential, the TTAG board took on the creative challenge of demonstrating the concept and benefits of this innovative technology in their 2024 Climate Fest booth. By integrating piezoelectric sensors that generate electricity into their exhibits, Joie Kozubal, TTAG Co-President, and Rebecca Palubicki, TTAG Membership Coordinator, showcased a flashlight, a 12-key piano, and a jukebox, offering tangible demonstrations of this technology. Valeria Rosas, TTAG Secretary, took charge of designing posters and signs that not only explained the intricacies of piezoelectricity but also offered fascinating fun facts about the technology.

The collaborative efforts of all the dedicated TTAG members who built and operated the booth ensured that the piezoelectric concept resonated with Climate Fest attendees. One visitor was so impressed that he generously donated \$20 for future TTAG STEM activities. Another likened their presentation to a mini TED talk, praising the depth of understanding and passion exhibited by the TTAG team.



The TTAG Climate Fest Booth Set Up Crew, from left to right: Afiya Jimenez, Joie Kozubal, Alissa Sommer, Rebecca Palubicki, Valeria Rosas



Joie Kozubal Discussing the piezoelectric flashlight that she made



Rebecca Palubicki demonstrating the 12-key piezoelectric piano that she made



Valeria Rosas demonstrating the piezoelectric jukebox

Spring Fundraiser

Thanks to the generosity of Montage Resort, we had a successful and fun event on April 28 that raised \$12,600 for our scholarship fund, helping us meet our fundraising goals for this year. Some of our members generously bought extra tickets, which allowed us to invite and acknowledge other community members who had helped us this year; for example, Johnathan Wind and Paul Mahder who donated the space at the 222 for our Reproductive Rights event. Many thanks to our members who supported this event.



Spring Meeting - May 18, 2024

Our thanks to our gracious hostess, **Jan Stanley**, for opening her home to us for this event and on multiple occasions.



2023-2024 Board - Thank you all for your hard work!



Introducing your 2024-2025 Board. Can you identify the changes? Hint: Welcome to our incoming Vice President, Celeste Plaister. Incoming Secretary Pam Jones, not pictured.



Laura Tredinnick spoke on accomplishments of the past year ranging from Scholarships to social events, from Reading Rocks to Tech Trek. We've sponsored public policy events and a speaker series.



Incoming President, Nancy Jane Andrews, thanks her new Past President, Laura Tredinnick and the official transfer of power is complete!



Sixty members enjoyed conversations and lunch at Jan Stanley's beautiful hilltop home for our end-of-year meeting.



Cultural Event- Recology Tour May 15



AAUW members enjoyed an enlightening one-hour tour of the new Recology Recycling Plant in Santa Rosa. Since heavy equipment was involved, we wore vests, hard hats, and microphones in our ears to hear Anita - our guide who explained the whole process.

The Recycling Plant is very impressive, quite complicated, and a bit overwhelming. There are four steps: 1) employees hand sort the items, 2) the plant mechanically sorts the recyclables, 3) another hand sort is completed, 4) a final mechanical sort ends the process.

Educating the public about what is allowed and how not to contaminate their recyclables is an important challenge. While we were there, they pulled a bent-up bicycle and garden hoses off the conveyor belt. California is leading the way in recycling. And, the good news is that many of the articles we read about the issues with plastics do not pertain to California, especially in areas like Sonoma-Marín where they have the equipment to recycle thoroughly. A couple of quick takeaways:

*Blue cans can become contaminated with animal poop or other non-recyclable garbage. Biggest no-no – animal poop and single-use thin plastics. All ridged plastic is OK regardless of the number in the triangle.

*All recyclable items should be clean and dry. If dirty, they go to the landfill.

To learn more: visit their website [Recology.com/SonomaMarin](https://www.recology.com/SonomaMarin). There is an interesting video of the San Francisco Center that shows how it works. Click [here](#) to watch.

If you missed our AAUW May 15 and May 23 sold out tours, public tours are available by calling Anita at 707-312-1554. The plant is located at 3417 Standish, Santa Rosa.

We were all quite impressed

Liz Loebel & Judith Olney, Co-Chairs Cultural Events

Speaker Series



Another successful Speaker's Series was held on May 13. Board Chair Eric Lucan and General Manager Eddy Cummins updated 42 attendees about the achievements and upcoming improvements with SMART. Audience members are encouraged to learn more about the 2024 Strategic Plan at <https://sonomamarintrain.org/strategic-plan>

Stay abreast of what is coming by signing up for the SMART Newsletter by clicking [here](#).

Additionally, below is a link that promotes the senior and youth Fare-Free f program

and shows different destinations near SMART Stations. <https://www.sonomamarintrain.org/FreeFare>

Please note AAUW Speaker's Series will take a summer break and resume in the Fall. If you have suggestions for topics and speakers please contact **Michelle Regan** at michelle.m.regan@gmail.com or **Celeste Plaister** at celesteplaister@gmail.com



Meet Our New Members



Mary Newman

Mary is a 5th-generation San Franciscan, and was primarily raised in the South Bay long before it was considered Silicon Valley. After completing her undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley, she earned her Masters in Real Estate at Golden Gate University. She worked in commercial real estate finance for both private and public companies. Mary and her husband, Scott, moved to Lafayette in 1993 and, for over 25 years, raised their three children there. A dedicated mother and community member, Mary turned her energy to supporting her community, local nonprofits, and the local public schools while living in Lafayette. Her

husband grew up on a working ranch in Knights Valley, and it has always been the plan to return to Northern Sonoma County; they now live in Healdsburg.

Mary is eager to join the AAUW Healdsburg Branch to engage in the many social, current and cultural events and to participate in volunteer opportunities in support our local youth. Strengthening community is best accomplished through collaboration and dedication to creating measurable outcomes. Her beliefs align with the values and initiatives of AAUW, and affirms she is at her happiest spending quality time with dynamic women. Through diverse conversations and sharing experiences and perspectives, she hopes to gain more insight from fellow members (and have lots of fun along the way), while dedicating her time for the next generation of young women to make a difference in their world.

Next Generation of young women: Remember the importance of surrounding yourself with good people, those who support you and teach you; your choices in companionship/mentorship will greatly impact your journey. Believe that you set your own true value for everyone to see.

Favorite female creator: Female filmmakers are mostly underrepresented, these women have made significant contributions recently to the art of cinema and are helping pave the way for upcoming young women in the industry: Kathryn Bigelow, Ava DuVernay, Sofia Coppola, Shonda Rhimes (TV), and Greta Gerwig. Check out their work!

Scholarships

The mission of AAUW is to promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change. There is no better way to do this than to award scholarship funds to incredible young women from Windsor, Geyserville, Cloverdale, and Healdsburg High Schools.

This year we were able to award a total of 20 scholarships that ranged from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per student. The criteria that our committee uses consists of grades, financial need, the quality of their essay, community service, and letters of recommendation. It was difficult to choose as all 43 applicants were deserving, but the 20 we chose stood out. We partner with the JNR foundation, a philanthropic women's organization who are particularly interested in awarding scholarships to first generation high school seniors who meet the same criteria. The JNR funds of \$4,000 each were awarded to eight amazing young women and the AAUW scholarships of \$2,000 were awarded to 12 outstanding young women.

I would like to thank the extremely hardworking and dedicated members of the scholarship committee, **Julie Hanamura**, **Debbie Potmesil**, and **Yvonne Schell** who spent many hours reviewing the applications and meeting to choose the applicants. I am also grateful to you, the members of our AAUW branch whose contributions made these scholarships possible. If you are interested in joining the high school scholarship committee please contact me.

Beth Wolk

High School Scholarship Chair

blwolk@gmail.com





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Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

NEW TITLE IX RULES

Biden Admin. Releases Long-Awaited Guidance

HOT OFF THE PRESSES! On Friday, April 19, 2024, the Biden Administration released long-awaited guidance on the application and administration of Title IX. The rule changes (1) rework Trump Administration guidance on the handling of campus sexual assault, providing expanded protections for survivors; and (2) expand Title IX protections against sex/gender-based harassment and discrimination to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community. Expansion of rights to the LGBTQ+ community via Title IX aligns this federal law with current interpretation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits workplace discrimination on the basis of sex/gender. **AAUW national serves in a gender equity coalition supporting these changes.**

Stay Tuned! It will be a busy summer. We are anticipating needing your help to push back on challenges to this new guidance. The June PP News will include an article that expands on all of this information, and provides updates on impending legal challenges. Thank you in advance!

ACTION ALERTS!

Test Out Resistbot by Clicking Below

If you've signed up for action alerts, thank you! **You should get ready for a busy summer and fall.** Thankfully, a lot of our priority legislation is moving along smoothly, so we have not yet reached out to you to act. However, **we do invite you to test out one arm of our alert system: Resistbot.** Click on **THIS LINK** and "sign" the petition in support of SB 554. When you "sign," Resistbot will prompt you, through your preferred text message system, to send a letter with the petition text to your CA State Senator. Be sure to check it out!

WHERE IS THAT?

Find All Things Public Policy

Key links to your public policy resources:

- [Google Workspace](#)
- [AAUW Policy Leaders Manual from National](#)
- [Branch liaisons](#)
- Contact us at publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.
- **Tell us about your branch public policy events** by filling out this [form](#).
- **Sign up for CA Legislative Action Alerts [HERE!](#)**

NEXT MEETING FOR BRANCH PUBLIC POLICY CHAIRS

Wednesday 06/05 @ 2pm PT

Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.

2024-2025 branch public policy chairs' meeting schedule will be released in July/August 2024.

SIGN UP FOR ACTION ALERTS [HERE.](#)

click here!



2024
Bill Tracker

ARTICLE FOR YOUR JUNE BRANCH NEWSLETTERS

AAUW California Advocates for Its Priorities with the Legislature

By Sue Miller and Joy Frew, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

This year's Lobby Days event, held on April 2nd and 3rd, was exciting and action-packed. 140 women on 43 teams from 63 AAUW California branches met with 39 Assembly offices and 27 Senate offices. 11 meetings took place in person in Sacramento, 55 meetings took place via Zoom, and the majority took place without a hitch.

While most meetings were conducted with legislative staff, we were able to hold eight meetings with the members themselves - five Assemblymembers and three Senators. We were not able to get a meeting for Zoom Team 7 with Assemblymember Hart, but they did even better when one of their members, Judy Frost from the Santa Maria branch, joined Assemblymember Hart on a hike and lobbied him on the hiking trail.

We were happy to learn that our organization was known to many of the legislative staff and legislators with whom our members met. Some staff had looked up our website prior to meeting and were impressed with programs such as Tech Trek and Gov Trek. Most were supportive of advancing women's equity.

The reception of our "Top 3" bills - AB 2843, AB 2326 and AB 2099 - was generally favorable. The offices were more familiar with the first two, both of which are sponsored by AAUW California. AB 2099 was new to them. You can find more information on these and all the bills we are supporting [HERE](#).

In short, AB 2843 eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical treatment following a rape. Insurers will be required to cover the full cost of medical care. AB 2326 requires the chancellors or presidents from the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges, to provide an annual report publicly and orally to the Assembly and Senate Subcommittees on Education Finance on each institution's compliance with Title IX, including sexual assault. AB 2099 would make it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of reproductive health care providers or patients, including on the internet, with the intent of causing them harm, if the posting and subsequent action results in bodily injury.

During our Lobby Days event, we were able to get our message across to those who make our laws and to highlight AAUW, our mission, accomplishments and the benefits we bring to our communities throughout California. It was an empowering exercise in advocacy and for those of you who participated, AAUW California thanks you!

Check out our Public Policy Page on the [AAUW California Website](#). You can read our current 2023-2025 Public Policy Priorities, which can be viewed [HERE](#), find information on the Legislative Agenda, Lobby Days, the Legislative Calendar, and Coalitions with other organizations. You can also learn the latest about the School Board Project!

**We hope you enjoyed the last Grapevine issue before summer break!
The next published issue will be September.**

Deadline for the September issue is August 15.

Have a wonderful summer!

!9v6 9 MOND9E7N! 2UMM9E7!

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.

