

The Grapevine

September 2024

Volume 40, Number 1

Kicking Off the New Year Together!

A beautiful evening and precious time to chat in the most spectacular setting. Thank you to Judith Olney for hosting. We look forward to seeing you all through the year.



Nancy Jane Andrews,
President



Patty McHugh, STEM



Linda Clark, Social Activities



Kerry Elkind, Scholarships



President's Message

WELCOME BACK!!!

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are ready to dive back into our Mission Based Programs, book clubs, hiking, fundraising and other social activities. Our August 20 Fall Kickoff was awesome thanks to **Judith Olney** and her team!

Your Board of Directors met in August and drafted the following goals for 2024-25:

- 75% of membership donating to the annual Scholarship Fund.
- Increase membership to 200 members.
- DEI focused outreach in all programs.
- TechTrek and TTAG onward and upward!!

Graham and I will be traveling in Portugal, Spain and France for the month of September. Celeste Plaister, Vice President, will chair the September Board meeting. Our Speaker Series will kick off in October, speakers to be announced. Courtesy of the Healdsburg Community Services Division, we will continue to meet at the Community Services Building Multipurpose Room.

Nancy Jane Andrews, Board President



The Communications team hopes you had a wonderful summer. We enjoyed the rest and are back at it with much enthusiasm.

We look forward to seeing your Grapevine submittals with the deadline the 15th of the month prior. Our last issue for the new year is June. We look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming events throughout the year!

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Recap of the Homes Tour Survey

Hello AAUW Members!

Nearly half of our members responded to the recent Homes Tour Survey. ***Thank you for such great participation and ideas!***

Should we hold the Homes Tour again? 87.4% of respondents said “Yes.”

In addition to great suggestions and feedback, several respondents asked questions. Our board feels this is a great time to answer those questions to help us all be on the same page; so here we go!

Question: *How do the funds raised by the Healdsburg Homes Tour (HHT) fit into the overall fundraising budget?*

Answer: Our last Homes Tour was in 2019. That year, HHT net revenue was \$34,600. Our scholarship budget for 2020 was \$40,000*.

In 2018, the HHT raised \$51,700* for our 2019 scholarship budget of \$60,000.

*These numbers do not include our 4th year college scholarships that are funded by the Al Garren Grant.

So, we see that the HHT was a major contributor to our high school and 3rd year college scholarship funds.

Question: *What about applying for grants?*

Answer: Starting in 2022-23, we received a grant of \$24,000 from the JNR Foundation for scholarships. They had been administering their own scholarship program and wished to outsource it. Subsequently, AAUW was selected and we report back to them on the awardees. These scholarships are called the “Saralee Kunde” scholarships.

In 2023-24, the JNR Foundation increased scholarship support to \$32,000.

In addition, in 2023, we received a grant of \$25,000 from the “Public Schools Success Team” (PSST) who were ending their program. These funds are being spread out over 5 years for various projects.

In 2023-24 a grants committee was established. In its research, the committee found that most granting bodies choose to issue grants for specific programs, not to pass-through activities such as our scholarships. We applied for some and were not successful in this arena.

Question: *What other types of fundraisers have been considered?*

Answer: In 2022-23 the fundraising committee planned to do a garden tour. Several gardens in Dry Creek Valley were selected. However, when final planning was complete, it became apparent there was insufficient parking for the volume of expected attendees. We have tried shuttles in the past for the HHT, which all agreed were not a success. To add more shuttles would be extremely costly and either cut into our net revenue or require us to increase ticket prices substantially.

In 2023-24, a Murder Mystery Dinner was considered which turned out to be extremely costly to produce.

We have also considered a “Designers Showcase.” This would compete with another such event in Sonoma County.

In the past, we have raised money from “The Forum,” an OLLI-like program of six-week courses led by professors on a range of topics. This program met the same fate as many others during COVID. It may be possible to bring it back.

Our other main source of income is you, our members. Your end-of-year donations to the Healdsburg AAUW Fund added \$30,000 to support our scholarships in 2023-24. Thank you!

Question: *What about doing more fundraisers like the ones at The Madrona and Montage?*

Answer: These were lovely events and ones that are unlikely to be repeated. The Madrona held the event for us before it opened to the public as a dry run for their staff in addition to supporting our scholarships. We held two events there; a cocktail party on Friday evening and a luncheon on Saturday. Since there was no cost to us, the net revenue from ticket sales for the two events was \$25,000.

The event at Montage was a garden party, also fully funded by the hosts. Ticket sales for that raised \$10,600.

Even though we had no costs for these events, they did not come close to raising the funds we need for scholarships.

Question: *What has been the past experience in soliciting individual donations (like \$1,000 each)?*

Answer: In addition to ticket sales, we have solicited sponsors for each of the homes from companies like real estate firms and construction. We also sell ads to local businesses that are published in our HHT guide booklet. The year we made \$51,700, we had a successful solicitation leader who requested and received many personal donations from \$250-\$1,000 each.

Question: *Can we get interesting houses or have we run out of homes?*

Answer: This year we have a local architect, who has volunteered to help us find homes (his own included) from among his contacts. When we started the HHT, we looked at historic homes. Now, our focus is interesting homes. I am excited to see what we may find for 2025.

Laura Tredinnick, Past President



Tech Trek 2024: Super STEM Camp at Sonoma State University

What an accomplishment! AAUW Healdsburg with the support of our seven remarkable volunteers, one dedicated fundraiser, more than 10 generous donors, five encouraging local middle school teachers and awesome leadership teams at local, state and national levels, funded eight local girls for a life-changing week at Tech Trek STEM Camp.

You are in for a treat if you have yet to read here (<https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek-thank-you-notes/>) how our joint efforts have opened these girls' eyes, broadened their friendships and cultivated their interests in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

This week-long, immersive experience was a transformative event as our eight campers joined 82 other rising 8th-grade girls from around the region.

Core classes and workshops tackled Aerospace, Civil Engineering, Chemistry, Robotics, etc. Public speaking, teamwork, self-defense and leadership opportunities helped Tech-Trekkers build confidence and form bonds with their peers. Check out those satisfied smiles on our campers in their group photo below!

A round of applause for our astrophysicist, **Mary Barsony**, who both recruited donors and taught two Astronomy workshops. Dorm moms provided a supportive, safe and stable presence – especially for those girls who have never been away from their families. Room monitors offered assistance and add an engaging element to the classrooms. Junior counselors (like Rebecca P. in photo), who are former Tech Trekkers themselves and now members of the Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG), were campers' relatable heroes who offered guidance, camaraderie and encouragement. Please thank this year's volunteers: **Diane Bartleson, Debbi Crapeau, Kerry Elkind, Ann Elston, Nancy Haiston, Mary Newman, and Karla Rosen.**

Also congratulate **Karla Rosen**, already dazzling in her devotion to Tech Trek's Alumnae Group (TTAG). She's outdone herself by joining Tech Trek's State level Leadership team.

Our 2024-25 Tech Trek Selection Committee, **Debbi Crapeau** and **Anna-Laura Jansma (Co-Chairs)**, **Annabel Bentley** and **Yvonne Schell** welcomes **Danielle Diaz** to the team. Scientist and former middle school teacher, Danielle recently joined AAUW motivated by the Tech Trek program. The entire committee offers sincere and hearty thank to **Nancy Haiston** for laying the groundwork for us and leading this committee for the past 3 years.

Would you like to know more about Tech Trek and perhaps volunteer at next year's camp? Visit AAUW's website: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/tech-trek/> or contact the AAUW Healdsburg branch: <https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net/>.



Debbi Crapeau and **Anna-Laura Jansma**, Tech Trek Selection Committee Co-Chairs

Tech-Trekkers Back Row: Sophia, Susana, Mira, Riley, Rebecca P. (Jr. Counselor),

Front Row: Maya, Saily, Zoey, Jessa

Mission Based Programs

Mission Based Programs consist of committees that work to support our community, particularly in education for students in preschool through high school.

- **Future Prep and High School Career Events**

Future Prep is AAUW's volunteer program at Healdsburg High School to help students explore career choices and understand the pathway, education, and life skills necessary to attain that career. **Pam Jones** and **Betsy Hafner** are chairs of this committee. If you are interested in helping, please contact them.

Aside from Future Prep, AAUW members are asked to participate in a number of classroom activities, ranging from offering feedback on students' community service activities and as observers in the presentation of junior class internship projects. We are also asked to help at the Financial Literacy event called Bite of Reality put on by the Redwood Credit Union for the juniors at Healdsburg High School. This event usually happens in late spring. A call for volunteers to help at all of these events will go out through Constant Contact.

- **Reading Rocks**

Using teacher-provided material, Reading Rocks is a program in which AAUW volunteers read one-on-one with first and second grade students to improve their reading skills and build their confidence. This program has been going on for many years at Healdsburg Elementary and West Side Elementary. Last year, volunteers started at Mattie Washburn in Windsor. If you are interested in volunteering, contact **Catherine Mock**.

- **School Readiness**

School Readiness is a committee with the mission to assist in making sure that all children are ready for kindergarten and school success, both socially/emotionally and academically. We usually help fund the preschool fair. If you are interested in this topic and have ideas, please let **Barbara Epstein**, the chair for this committee, know.

- **Holiday School Supplies**

Each year we gather \$10 *voluntary* donations from our members in order to help our schools purchase supplies. We deliver a check right before winter break to say thank you for all that they do for students in our community. **Beth Wolk** is the chair for this committee.

Looking forward to a great year with our Mission Based Programs.

Catherine Mock, Director

Social Activities

Summer Wine 'N Dine Brunch!

Our Healdsburg AAUW Summer Wine 'N Dine Brunch, the fourth and last event of our Wine 'N Dine get togethers for 2023-24, was held on Sunday, June 23. Three Healdsburg AAUW members hosted, inviting AAUW guests into their homes. The brunches were coordinated by the hosts for all to enjoy. Our hosts who so generously shared their homes for this event included AAUW members **Pat Bertapelle**, **Julie Hanamura**, and **Kerry Elkind**.

Delicious brunch fare and delectable wines were enjoyed, with a different menu served at each host home. Those attending enjoyed spending some time getting to know one another and also having interesting and fun conversations on a relaxing, sunny, beautiful Sunday.

Here are photos from the gatherings...

Pat and Dick Bertapelle's home:



Julie Hanamura and Jim Westfall's home:



Kerry and Andy Elkind's home:



Judy Edmonds will be joining our Wine 'N Dine Committee for our 2024-25 season. **Diane Burnley** has served our committee for many years and will be moving on to other Healdsburg AAUW activities. We thank her for her outstanding leadership on this committee. Look for information in the Fall about the next event, our Fall Wine 'N Dine Dinner which is typically held in mid-October.

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

Your Social Activities team is excited to offer you a variety of events to be enjoyed by all.

- The Cultural Events co-chairs, **Liz Loebel** and **Judith Olney**, have arranged a tour of the Buck Institute on September 19. Open to members only.
- The Lunch Bunch co-chairs, **Pam Handley** and **Scarlet Wood**, are hosting at Tisza's restaurant in Healdsburg on September 25. Open to members or potential members only.
- Happy Hour Co-Chairs, **Neita Comings** and **Carol Hazlett**, will host in October at a soon-to-be-announced location. Open to members and significant others.

Watch your email for details of each of these and how to reserve your spot. Many of our events reach capacity quickly, so reply as soon as possible.



The September AAUW Cultural Tour will be to The Buck Institute for Research on Aging -the world's first independent medical research facility devoted solely to research on aging and age-related disease.

The Buck Institute's Mission is to "extend the "health span" - the healthy years of life."

Once you learn more about the Buck Institute's research programs through our AAUW Member Cultural tour, you can independently sign up for podcasts or lectures at the institute.

Date: September 19, 2024 at 11 am sharp

RSVP to Judith Olney at MilestonesMet@gmail.com to sign up. Please state whether you are driving or carpooling from either Healdsburg or Windsor location. (30 person maximum). Members only.

Location: Buck Institute campus (designed by architect I. M. Pei), 8001 Redwood Blvd, Novato, CA. (45 min drive)

Meet for carpooling at 9:45 AM as the institute is about a 45-minute drive from Healdsburg. Healdsburg City Hall or Windsor Tesla Charging Stations.

Hope to see you there!

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

Speaker Series

Join us for monthly presentations on a variety of topics including updates on what's going on with several of our wonderful local non-profit organizations. The monthly series will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month (except for Nov. which will be on Tuesday, Nov. 12) at the Healdsburg Community Center, 1557 Healdsburg Avenue.

Mark your calendar for Monday, October 14!

The speaker series will kick off with a presentation from representatives of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society.

Speakers:

- Museum Representative: Update on Healdsburg Museum's activities and exhibits.
- Claire O'Neill: Museum volunteer, recent speaker at the museum's Healdsburg Plaza history talks.
 - Claire will tell us about important Healdsburg founder Josefa Carrillo Fitch's wild and amazing life and how she evolved into a highly respected leader and matriarch.



"The Elopement by Charles Nahl, 1875 (Bancroft Library). This painting is thought to depict the elopement of Josefa Carrillo and Henry Delano Fitch, when her cousin Pio Pico carried her on horseback to Fitch, waiting aboard the brig Vulture in 1829."

JOIN US!

Monday, October 14, from 11:30 to 1:00 pm at the Healdsburg Community Center, 1557 Healdsburg Avenue. Bring your own 'brown bag' lunch if you like. The presentation will begin at noon, followed by a brief update on AAUW chapter activities.

We encourage you to bring guests!

Michelle Regan, Speaker Series Chair



Jacquelyn Vieyra's Story

2018 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship

My name is Jacquelyn Vieyra, and I am currently a registered nurse working at Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital. I was born and raised in Windsor, California, and I attended Windsor High School where I graduated from in 2018. From there, I went straight into the four-year nursing school at Dominican University of California. Receiving this scholarship was not only financially helpful, but also made me feel grateful knowing that the AAUW program supported me and my future career. Nursing school was challenging in many ways. Being a four-year program, it was very fast paced which became a bigger issue when the COVID pandemic hit during my sophomore year. Thankfully, I was able to maintain my studies and I graduated from Dominican University in 2022 with a Bachelor's in nursing and a Minor in psychology. That fall, not long after passing my license exam, I landed my job at Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital.

I have been at here at Sutter hospital now for a little over one and a half years where I am a post-operative nurse helping patients recover from an array of different surgeries. Although this was the best first job I could've asked for as a new nurse, unfortunately imposter syndrome hit me hard at the beginning. Starting my nursing career at the age of twenty-two with the responsibility of taking care of other people's lives has been a bit intimidating and stressful. We were taught that when you enter a patient's room, you should present yourself as confident, but I often found myself less confident than I believed I should be. I found myself comparing myself to my older, more experienced co-workers which added to my frustration and feeling of inadequacy. Taking care of people that are two or three times my age was difficult, especially when they questioned how young I looked.

It took me a long time to overcome this feeling of inadequacy and build up my confidence as I learned to trust myself and my nursing abilities. I've finally come to appreciate and respect what I bring to this career and to the patients I interact with. Thankfully, as this confidence developed, the anxieties I'd initially felt have gone away. I can now say without hesitation that I LOVE my job, and I couldn't imagine myself doing anything else as a career.

Life lately has been nothing but beautiful. Doing what I love and finally having time to take care of myself and spend time with loved ones is something I've missed. The AAUW is a great support system for all women entering all levels of education. It is empowering to know that you help so many women that were in the same boat as me. It is a community that I will never take for granted because you chose to believe in me and my future abilities. I am forever grateful to all of your Healdsburg AAUW members and hope that you continue to empower and support women just as you did for me.

Meet Our New Members

Jackie Sherman

Jackie received a BSN from Emory University. She then continued with her graduate work in pursuit of a MS and PhD from University of Illinois Chicago with a major in Public Health Nursing. Most of her career was as a Professor of Nursing at the University of Arizona as well as the California State University Channel Islands. In addition to educating future nurses, she also owned a yoga studio in Tucson and conducted yoga retreats in Ojai CA. Jackie and her husband moved to ENSO Village from Ojai, California and joined AAUW to meet members of the community. She is now teaching nursing part time at Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University.



What would you like to tell young women of today: Follow your passion and know if you do, you are on your life's path- you may have many careers in your lifetime- just listen to your heart and be honest with yourself.

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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