

The Grapevine

October 2024

Volume 40, Number 2

President's Message

The local and national elections are bearing down on us! As you know, we are living through perilous times with major wars, famine, and drought along with curtailment of women's rights to education and reproductive freedom. Keeping a positive outlook and continuing to support our families, friends and community can help in maintaining one's equilibrium.

Getting out the vote by writing letters has kept **Rebecca La Londe** and a group of Public Policy members busy.

Our Reading Rocks Team has swung into action along with Tech Trek and TTAG. In addition, our scholarship recipients are beginning their fall terms and have received their funds.

So keep hiking, meeting for Book Clubs, Bridge, Great Decisions and other fun social events. Be kind. Stay active. VOTE!!!!

Nancy Jane Andrews
Healdsburg AAUW, President



Remember, Daylight Saving Time
is ending next month — November 3.
Mark your calendars and enjoy the morning light!

Communications

The Communications Team's Role in News About Our Members

The Communications team seeks to provide a wide range of information to all our members through our website, e-blasts, social media and the monthly Grapevine. Nearly all this information involves chapter activities and learning about scholarship winners and new members.

We also see a need to communicate about sad milestones in our members' and prior members' lives such as serious illness or death. In prior years, this has been communicated in a variety of ways. This year, we will provide this information more consistently with your help. Every month you have seen our reminder:

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

Going forward, please copy me on your email to Holly and I will arrange for the information to be shared with the entire membership each month in the Grapevine. As you may realize, not everyone would like the information shared and we will consult with you on whether we should just send a card or whether we can post a notice. We will post notices about prior members' deaths if notified. Of course, Holly and I will always coordinate this information but having two contacts ensures that we don't miss a timely notification.

Our new banner will now read as follows:

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 and to Kim Alexander so that we might communicate as appropriate. Email: hollypschatz@gmail.com. Phone: 415-305-4559 and kimeliza28@yahoo.com 607-342-7658.

Kim Alexander, Communications Director, and **Holly Schatz**, Corresponding Secretary

Tech Trek 2024 came to a celebratory conclusion on Wednesday, September 11, with our Panel Discussion held at the Windsor Library. In attendance for our Tech Trek campers were 42 family members, branch members, teachers and our amazing donors. They all came to hear the girls talk about their experiences at Tech Trek on the Sonoma State campus this summer.



The panel discussion is an annual event that allows us the opportunity to hear firsthand stories about camp life and how they were impacted by the experience. Our panel this year consisted of three campers, Maya G., Sophia V., and Susana L. Each excelled in speaking to the audience, sharing their joy and recognizing their growth as a result of attending camp.

Facilitating the discussion was Danielle Diaz, former teacher and newest Tech Trek Selection Committee Members along with four amazing Tech Trek Alumni Group (TTAG) girls: Joie K., president; Jessica V., secretary; Bryanna C., social media director; and Valeria E., event coordinator trainee. The students were asked questions such as: *“What motivated you to apply for Tech Trek camp?”* *“How did you feel when you first arrived at the dorms vs when you left on the last day?”* *“Did your experience at Tech Trek impact your thoughts about STEM? If so, how?”* *“Were there any benefits to interacting with girls at camp that were different from interacting with classmates and friends at school?”* The answers were insightful, inspiring and entertaining.

Liz Loebel asked one of my favorite questions to the campers’ parents, *“Did you notice anything different about your child upon their return?”* The parents responses included the increased confidence and personal growth they saw in their child, their gratitude for the branch selecting their child, and to thank the donors who made it possible.

We are already looking forward to interviewing the next group of potential campers and we invite you all to the panel next year.

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



Tech Trek Alumnae Group **We All Scream for Ice Cream**

The month of August brings the end of vacation, the return to school and one last summer fling, the Tech Trek Alumnae Group's (TTAG) Ice Cream Social. This is an annual event where the most recent Tech Trek (TT) campers are welcomed into TTAG. This group of TT graduates promotes STEM endeavors throughout grades 8 to 12 and helps prepare like-minded young women for their futures in STEM fields. TTAG members welcomed these new participants and their parents with a beach-themed celebration.

This year, in full summer regalia, the TTAG Board donned paper leis and flashy sunglasses after decorating the Windsor Public Library meeting room with ocean shells, beach hats, flip flops, and brightly colored tableware. To warm up the group, activities began with a game of "What's My Name", where each participant wore a tag on her back with the name of a well-known person or character. Without the ability to see the name on her tag, each girl had to move through the room asking other people yes/no questions about this mystery person to discover who it was. The parents in attendance played, too. Lots of friendly chatter ensued before the names were guessed and then revealed to everyone. To reward all this hard work, ice cream was served, including a heavy dose of syrups, sprinkles and fresh fruit. The ice cream supplies were generously donated by Safeway in Healdsburg.



but friendly while we all learned interesting facts about one of our favorite desserts.

To give the girls an opportunity to work in problem-solving teams, they divided into two groups. An adapted version of Jeopardy was played, this time with a focus on the history and chemistry of ice cream. The TTAG board members organized the questions and "hosted" the game. Competition was focused

but friendly while we all learned interesting facts about one of our favorite desserts.

To close the event, the TTAG board presented a brief description of TTAG and this year's coming events. On September 11, the TT Selection Committee hosted a panel discussion with the 2024 TT campers and an audience of over 40 enthusiastic adults. The campers answered questions posed by members of the TTAG board and the audience about their experience at TT camp and the impact it had on each of them. In November, the TTAG members have been invited by AAUW's Mary Barsony to test her 2025 TT workshop curriculum on the construction and use of galileoscopes. Future events may include a collaborative activity with the San Francisco TTAG and hosting a booth at the North Bay Science Discovery Day.



Diane Meyers and Karla Rosen, TTAG Advisors and Co-Chairs

JOIN US FOR
FABOULOUS
AAUW Happy Hour

Orsi Family Vineyards
2306 Magnolia Dr
Healdsburg

OCTOBER 23, 5 - 7 pm

Bring \$\$ for wine/Appetizer to share/
Partner or Guest

don't be a scaredy cat
- join the fun!
RSVP # in party
carolhazlett@me.com

Greetings ISLAND



AAUW Friday Hikers
Conquering Fitch Mountain



AAUW Speaker Series – Tues. Nov 12th

Paige Mazzoni CEO of Canine Companions

Did you know that the national headquarters for **Canine Companions** is right here in Santa Rosa? Since 1975, this nonprofit has been the leader in the dog assistance industry, serving people with a wide variety of disabilities. Canine Companions has developed a successful formula for breeding, raising, and training service dogs and operates training centers across the country. Our November speaker, **CEO Paige Mazzoni**, oversees their 37 million dollar annual budget. We hope to have her bring along one of their four legged friends.

Paige has been the chief marketing officer at VIP Petcare and she has held management roles at Oracle and Sybase as well as serving on the executive committee of several nonprofit fundraising boards, including the Buck Cardinal Board at Stanford University, her alma mater.



Paige Mazzoni, CEO of Canine Companions

Tuesday Nov. 12, 11:30 to 1:00 pm
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!

We have a speaker presentation each month on a variety of topics including the updates about what’s going on with several of our wonderful local non-profits. The monthly series will go through May, and is held on the 2nd Monday of each month (except for Nov. which will be on Tuesday, Nov. 12th). Join us!

See our September Grapevine article to hear about our October speakers on October 14. You won’t want to miss Patrick Mukaida, Healdsburg Museum Board President, and hear the riveting history of Healdsburg area matriarch, Josefa Carrillo Fitch, presented by Claire O’Neil.

Michelle Regan, Speaker Series Chair

Scholarships

Scholarship Success Stories

Laura Anderson's Story

2019 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship



My name is Laura Anderson. When I graduated from Healdsburg High School in 2019, I made one of the best decisions of my life by choosing to attend California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. I majored in Animal Science and took minors in Dance and Dairy Industries. When I graduated in June 2023 with a Bachelor of Science degree, I was still a bit unsure of what my next steps might be and where my long-term passions really lay, but as you read on I think you'll agree that this has become more and more in focus.

While I began my journey at Cal Poly on a pre-veterinary track after about three years in, I discovered that this may not be my true passion. It took me a very long time to come to this realization, as I had been working towards becoming a veterinarian for most of my life, and I didn't want to let myself, and those around me, down. In the time I spent in college, I

learned so much about myself, the world, and opportunities I'd never dreamed of before. I discovered the hundreds of different career paths that were opening up to me with my animal science degree. As I greatly expanded my scope of the animal world, I've come to realize that there are so many species, besides our beloved dogs and cats, that are in need and under great stress.

Yes, I've discovered that my true passion lies with the exotic species of the world, more specifically, the endangered animals around the globe. We as humans have destroyed so many habitats and in turn, taken so many animals' lives, to the point where their species is no longer viable. I want to make a difference in animal conservation and rehabilitation and try to reverse some of the damage we have done to hundreds of incredible animal species. I never would have been able to make this decision without the help of the AAUW and the scholarships they gave me. I was able to spend my time focusing on school and my future, without the stress of finances weighing on me.

Now, I have made a big move to San Diego, CA to pursue a career with exotic species, either at the San Diego Zoo, an aquarium, or somewhere similar. The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance is an incredible organization that has projects across six continents to recover and rehabilitate endangered species. I cannot thank the AAUW committee enough for their impact on my college education, my career, and my future!

The picture provided above shows my time in Chiang Mai, Thailand in the summer of 2022, where I volunteered at Elephant Nature Park. This was an incredible opportunity where I got to learn about the elephants they rescued from various abusive industries. They have over 100 elephants that they have rescued, now living a long and happy life at the sanctuary! This experience solidified my love for exotic, endangered, or otherwise abused species and drove me towards my new career path.

Meet Our New Members

Kay Reed

Kay attended University of Oklahoma, obtaining a degree in Citizenship and Public Affairs. She worked primarily in Republican politics, on campaigns in California including both of Governor Reagan's campaigns. Additionally Kay was a Special Assistant to Secretary of the Air Force. Later in her career, she was a Vice President of Chase Manhattan Bank working on privacy issues. She has joined the Healdsburg chapter of AAUW as many of her friends have spoken so highly of the organizations purpose and results.

Advice to young women: "Don't give up. It was harder in my day to succeed, but I know that it is not easy today to find the job that suits your talents."



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 and to Kim Alexander so that we might communicate as appropriate. Email: hollypschatz@gmail.com. Phone: 415-305-4559 and kimeliza28@yahoo.com 607-342-7658.

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.