

# The Grapevine

January 2025

Volume 40, Number 5

## President's Message

Welcome to January 2025!!!!

Well, we are survivors. Now we must continue to reach out to our wider community in support of our friends, neighbors, regional nonprofits and elected representatives.

Although I don't yet know just how successful our end of year fundraising was, I want to particularly thank **Renee Simi** who impressed us all with her hard work and creativity. A hearty thanks to everyone who has already contributed to the year-end financial appeal. And, a reminder that IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO CONTRIBUTE!

The Healdsburg AAUW Nominating Committee will soon be meeting to identify potential board members for 2025/26. There will be a number of opportunities including Public Policy Director, Mission Based Program Director, Communications Director, STEM Director, and Treasurer. Sharing a position as Co-Directors is also an option. Please consider serving on our Board where you will learn a lot about the organization, make new friends and have fun!

Onward in 2025!

**Nancy Jane Andrews**  
Healdsburg AAUW, President



## The Healdsburg Presents Project

The Healdsburg Presents Project has been providing holiday gifts to local families in need for 25 years. This year AAUW Healdsburg sponsored a family of six, and sent out a request to our members to sign up to help. Since many of our members quickly responded, we were able to provide all of the the gifts that the family requested.

### Special thanks to the following members who generously provided gifts:

Kim Alexander

Wendy Bertalon

Claire Burdett

Carol Callaghan

Victoria Carlin

Cathy Carr

Kim Cheiken

Tracy Chodora

Linda Clark

Carol Clurman

Julie Conklin

Kay Kohler

Denny Martin

Jane Martin

Patty McHugh

Karen Messick

Barbara Reid

Liz Schuiling

Renee Simi

Laura Tredinnick

## Fundraising Volunteers Needed for Tech Trek's Camp Sonoma



The AAUW Healdsburg branch proudly sponsors seven to nine girls from local middle schools to participate in Tech Trek each summer. Our girls attend Camp Franklin (held on the campus of Sonoma State University) and is named after British X-ray crystallographer, Rosalind Franklin, who helped discover the double-helix structure of the DNA molecule. In my roles as former Healdsburg Branch Tech Trek Fundraising Chair, Camp Franklin Galileoscope Workshop Instructor, and current statewide Tech Trek Committee member, it has become clear that the state-decreed stipend for each Tech Trek camper's attendance falls short of the actual expenditures of Camp Franklin

as a whole. The state-decreed stipend per camper is kept low because many of the 16 branches who send campers to Camp Franklin have considerable difficulty raising funds to cover the stipends for the number of campers they are allotted to sponsor. To remedy this situation, I have taken on the responsibility of raising funds for Camp Franklin exclusively and am currently recruiting volunteers to help in this effort from all 16 participating branches. It takes a team to effectively raise the needed funds. If you feel strongly about promoting the future education and career opportunities of the talented middle school girls in Northern California, please join me in this effort by contacting me at [techtrek.mb@gmail.com](mailto:techtrek.mb@gmail.com).

**Mary Barsony, Ph.D.**



## TTAG College Financial Aid Seminar: Empowering Families to Plan for the Future

On November 24, members of the Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) from AAUW branches across California came together for the Healdsburg TTAG College Financial Aid Seminar. This virtual event aimed to empower families with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate the complexities of planning for college financial aid.

Margaret Mann, the Financial Aid & Outreach Coordinator at Santa Rosa Junior College, led the seminar. With an impressive background that includes working with organizations such as 10,000 Degrees and the California Student Aid Commission, Margaret has facilitated numerous Cash for College workshops. Her steadfast dedication to helping families navigate financial aid opportunities earned her the distinguished "Making a Difference Award."

During the seminar, Margaret delivered a detailed roadmap for managing college costs, highlighting key timelines, action steps, and a rich array of financial aid resources. The event was a resounding success, with 57 Tech Trek alumnae, parents, and TTAG advisors in attendance. To amplify its impact, 156 participants received the seminar recording and comprehensive materials—featuring links to diverse financial aid programs—along with South Bay TTAG's *College Prep 101* recording. These valuable resources will guide students and their families through high school and into college, reinforcing the importance of early preparation.



Events like this showcase the incredible impact of AAUW programs in equipping young women and their families to pursue higher education with confidence. Together, we're shaping futures and creating opportunities!

**Karla Rosen**

**True West Film Center**  
**Monday, January 13, 11:30 - 1:00 pm**

Have you heard True West Film Center is building a movie theater in downtown Healdsburg? Join us on January 13 to learn more about this new cinema space.

Our speaker is Kathryn Philip, founder of True West Film Center. Kathryn is responsible for the center's overall strategic, financial, management, fundraising and operational health. She has helped raise more than \$6M for the organization's infrastructure and programming.



The discussion will include:

- History
  - Building trust in the community, strategic partnerships
  - Benefits of having access to film and movie theaters
  - Relationship with the Jaime Redford Center in San Francisco
  - Commitment to media literacy for kids
- Plans for the new cinema and upcoming film festivals and other events
  - Creation of whole new theater model - three screens
  - Construction timeline
- How you can help ensure the film arts remain accessible for our entire community

Please join us on **Monday, January 13, from 11:30 to 1:00 pm** at the Healdsburg Community Center, 1557 Healdsburg Avenue. Bring a brown bag lunch if you like. The presentation will begin at noon, followed by a brief update regarding AAUW chapter activities.

We have a speaker presentation each month on a variety of topics including updates on what's going on with several of our wonderful local non-profits. The monthly series will go through May and is held on the second Monday of each month. Join us and bring guests!



**December Program Follow Up - Healdsburg Regional Library**

For those of you who were unable to attend the December 9 event, make sure you go to the website <https://www.sonomalibrary.org/> to learn about the range of services and resources provided by our regional library.

**Michelle Regan**, Speaker Series Chair

**Mark Your Calendar NOW!**

Healdsburg AAUW's

**Winter Wine 'N Dine**

**Saturday, February 1, 2025**

Watch for an eBlast in early January

**Cindy Powers and Judy Edmonds, Wine 'N Dine Chairs**



**How You can Enjoy a  
Private Wine Tasting/Pairing**

Since we are fortunate to live in the beautiful and bountiful Wine Country, we are offering something special with this year's Wine 'N Dine. As an enjoyable incentive, all who participate in the 2024-25 Wine 'N Dine events will be entered into a drawing to win a spot at a special evening devoted to wine.

EJ Neil, the husband of Judy Edmonds, has offered to host a small affair demonstrating how to taste and pair wines. EJ's experience includes 20+ years as a vineyard owner (occasionally assistant winemaker) producing several award-winning vintages. This event will take place at the Neil/Edmonds home on Dry Creek Road sometime in the spring. The date is to be determined.

Those who sign up for any Wine 'N Dine event this year will be entered into the drawing. Wine 'N Dine guests will be entered each time they sign up, while hosts will receive two chances. This also applies to guests and hosts who attended the first Wine 'N Dine in October. The number of winners is still being worked out, but the more dinners you sign up for, the greater your chance of winning!

## Looking for a Book Group?

Our AAUW Book Groups are a great place to meet and get to know other members. Joining a book group was the reason I joined AAUW many years ago! Book groups meet at members' homes and usually rotate among members.

Here is a list of book groups that have openings, and leaders whom you may contact to find out more.

Day and Time	Leader	Contact
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday 7:00 p.m.	Julia Graves	<a href="mailto:Gravesjulia3@gmail.com">Gravesjulia3@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 3:30 p.m.	Barbara Oddone	<a href="mailto:barbara@oddonevineyard.com">barbara@oddonevineyard.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 2:00 p.m.	Janet Hoehn	<a href="mailto:ciaojanet@comcast.net">ciaojanet@comcast.net</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:00 p.m.	Laura Tyler	<a href="mailto:lauramtyler@earthlink.net">lauramtyler@earthlink.net</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Mystery 2:00	Hilary Hasco	<a href="mailto:hilhasco@gmail.com">hilhasco@gmail.com</a>

### Laura Tredinnick



To celebrate the holidays the Monday night book club holds a festive dinner in December. **Naomi Ramsden** and **Judy Edmonds** created a bûche de Noël (chocolate yule log) for the occasion.



### **Denna Taylor's Story** **2017 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship**

The scholarship I received in 2017 from the Healdsburg Branch of AAUW was a pivotal moment in my life, marking the beginning of a journey filled with opportunities and growth. It wasn't just financial support; it was a beacon of hope that illuminated my path towards higher education.

With the scholarship funds, I was able to purchase essential tools for my academic journey. The first and perhaps most significant investment was a laptop. In today's digital age, having access to a personal computer is not just a convenience but a necessity for academic success. Thanks to the scholarship, I was equipped with a reliable device that allowed me to research, write papers, and stay connected with professors and classmates.

Textbooks are the lifeblood of any college student, but their cost can often be steep. The scholarship alleviated this burden by providing me with the means to purchase the required textbooks for my courses. No longer did I have to worry about scouring the internet for affordable alternatives. I could approach my first semester with confidence, knowing that I had the resources needed to excel academically.

Additionally, the scholarship covered the cost of a parking pass, a seemingly small expense that made a world of difference in my daily life. Commuting to campus became more convenient and less stressful, allowing me to focus my energy on my studies rather than worrying about finding parking.

Beyond the tangible benefits, the AAUW scholarship instilled a sense of pride and confidence in me. It was a validation of my hard work and dedication, affirming that my efforts were recognized and valued by others. This recognition fueled my determination to succeed, motivating me to push myself academically and pursue my dreams with renewed vigor.

Moreover, the scholarship served as a reminder of the importance of giving back to the community. Knowing that there are organizations like AAUW dedicated to supporting women in their educational pursuits inspired me to pay it forward whenever possible, whether through mentorship, volunteering, or supporting similar initiatives.

In essence, the AAUW scholarship was more than just financial assistance; it was a catalyst for transformation. It opened doors, removed barriers, and empowered me to reach new heights in my academic and personal journey. I am forever grateful for the opportunity it provided and the impact it continues to have on my life.



 **Happy New Year!** 

As we step into a new year, the Communications team wants to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for each and every one of you. Your dedication, passion, and support have been instrumental in driving our mission forward and making a positive impact in our community. 2025 holds new opportunities for us to grow, collaborate, and continue our important work together. We're excited about showing your work and can't wait to share more!

Here's to optimism, determination, and a year filled with hope, joy, and meaningful progress. Thank you for being such an essential part of the AAUW journey. Together, we can achieve great things!

Wishing you a fantastic start to the year ahead! 🥰✨

With gratitude,

**Kim Alexander, Kim Brown, Carol Clurman, Judy Edmonds, Holly Schatz, Laura Tyler, Liz Loebel, Dyan Urban**

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](#) and [Kim Alexander](#) so that a card can be sent from Healdsburg AAUW and communicate as appropriate. Email: [hollypschatz@gmail.com](mailto:hollypschatz@gmail.com). Phone: 415-305-4559 and [kimeliza28@yahoo.com](mailto:kimeliza28@yahoo.com) 607-342-7658.

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