

# The Grapevine

February 2025

Volume 40, Number 6

## President's Message

### THANK YOU!!! 53%

53% of our membership has already contributed to the annual Healdsburg AAUW Fund for a current total of \$37,000. As you know our goal is \$50,000 with 100% participation. Someone with graphic design skills is developing a visual depiction of our progress!

With the new year, many of us are dealing with Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts. Tax-free donations to the Healdsburg AAUW Fund can be arranged through your Financial Advisor. "Legacy Giving" through one's will is another way to contribute. Graham and I recently updated our wills. It is quite a process! Renée Simi will be writing an article for *The Grapevine* soon addressing legacy giving.



Our high school seniors are busy applying to colleges and filling out necessary financial forms. The Tech Trek Team is collecting applications and arranging interviews for this summer's camp. I have signed the 2025 MOU committing to funding for eight young women from our five local high schools, along with providing volunteers.

I am asking all our members to support our core mission. Any amount you can give will be appreciated and make a difference to young women right here in Cloverdale, Geyserville, Healdsburg and Windsor.

**Onward in 2025!!!**

**Nancy Jane Andrews**  
Healdsburg AAUW President

**Monday, February 10**

**Reach For Home**

**A nonprofit working to end homelessness in Northern Sonoma County**

In 2022 Reach for Home opened **L&M Village** in **Healdsburg**, the first and only interim housing program for chronically homeless individuals in Northern Sonoma County. This program provides a safe, therapeutic setting where individuals experiencing homelessness can feel accepted and empowered to gain greater independence. Since opening, the L&M Village has significantly helped reduce homelessness in both Healdsburg and Northern Sonoma County. Based on annual Point-in-Time counts, homelessness decreased by 66% in Healdsburg and 40% in Northern Sonoma County from 2022 to 2023.

Our speaker, Angie Escudero, came to Reach for Home in February of 2022. With nearly a decade of development work experience, she oversees grant writing, the annual fundraising event, volunteers and marketing. She was previously the Senior Development Director at Canine Companions for Independence.



Angie Escudero,  
Director of Development

Angie will provide an overview of how Reach for Home programs operate in Windsor, Healdsburg, Cloverdale and Geyserville, including:

- The Initial intake of participants and the steps taken to help them overcome the trauma of being homeless
- Programs available for participants to help them work toward self-sufficiency, independence and permanent housing
- The role of case managers who help participants to access resources and services that give them the tools to make necessary changes in their lives

Join us!

**Monday February 10, 11:30 am 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 re: AAUW chapter activities

**We encourage you to bring guests!**

**Michelle Regan**, Speaker Series Chair

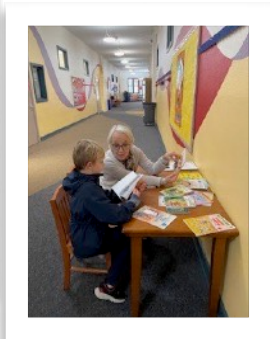
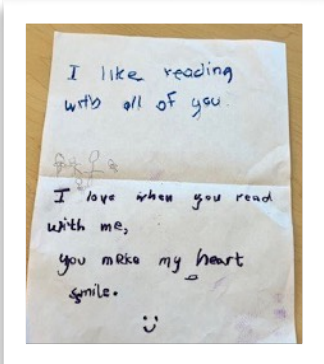
# Mission Based Programs

## The latest in Reading Rocks:

Monday, December 16: **Diane Burnley, Judy Biondolillo, Wendy Mogul, and Patty McHugh** gave out books to 60 first graders at Healdsburg Elementary School. The kids were thrilled to choose their very own books.

Tuesday, December 17: **Pat Bertapelle, Theresa Cabral, Georgia Helthall, and Yvonne Hyatt** gave out books to 21 first graders at West Side Elementary School. Ms. Kettman's students really appreciated the books.

We will be giving out books to the first graders at Mattie Washburn later in the school year since some of the Reading Rocks volunteers are just getting started there.



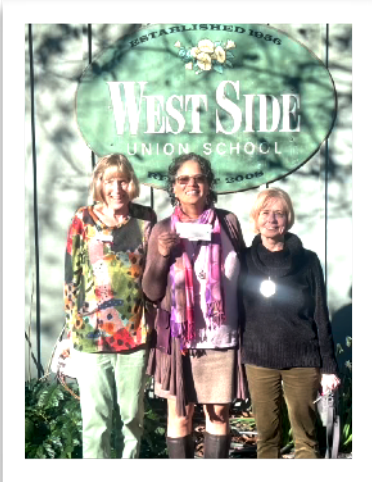
## Holiday Gift Supplies:

With your generous donations, we raised \$1,390 for holiday gift supplies for teachers. Thank you so much! The money will be divided between the elementary schools in Healdsburg and Mattie Washburn in Windsor.



## Catherine Mock

Director Mission Based Programs



Erika McGuire, Principal

Rima Meechan, Superintendent/Principal



### Scholarship Success Stories

Sabrina Rawson's Story

2018 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC and Al Garren Scholarships

#### **Strength, Courage, and A Model for The Next Generation**

Being awarded the AAUW scholarship to attend Sonoma State University was the first significant investment I had received toward my education. This with the encouragement and support of my husband and our family who believed and encouraged me to continue, allowed me to pursue my dreams of a teaching career.

Your AAUW financial support, coupled with part-time work on campus, enabled me to make ends meet. As a result, in January 2018 I became a first-generation history honors student and a McNair Scholar. I did

well in my first semester, which allowed me to apply and be awarded a renewal permitting me to graduate with honors in Spring 2019, three semesters after I started.

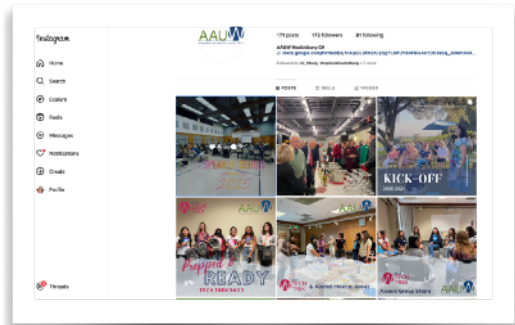
With the additional time dedicated to my schooling, I felt more confident and creative about how to finish my degree. Accepted into the history honors program, I was required to write a thesis and defend it at the end of the year. While this takes most students an entire year to accomplish, I created a publishable thesis, passed it, and graduated in one semester. Because of my success during my first year at Sonoma State, I participated in programs such as The Honor Society, Black Student Union, Student Success, EOP, and the McNair Scholars Program.

I spent a lot of time on the AAUW website and read many articles. Through thought-provoking conversations about what I learned on the AAUW website, I did speaking engagements at the Santa Rosa Junior College about my thesis and the importance of attending a four-year university. I shared my success story with students at the college I previously attended and the university I would attend. After graduating from Sonoma State University, COVID-19 happened in the middle of my first year of graduate school there. When the school closed, I enrolled out of state at the University of Illinois. I graduated with an Ed.M. degree in Education Policy, Organization & Leadership in one year. By then, protocols in society lifted, and I was looking for work. With no employment for history teachers at the local junior colleges, I applied for PhD programs that would pay students to go to their schools. I was accepted and am currently in my fourth year of a six-year PhD program in the Interdisciplinary Humanities program at the University of California (UC) Merced. I have presented my work at various symposiums and given speeches to students at UC Merced. I've taught undergraduates for the past three years while attending school as part of my contract with the university.

Throughout my college career, I have had to contend with chronic health problems causing me to question if I should finish school and whether I'd done enough "educating" myself to get a job. One thing I could always reply on was that every time I had no idea how I would pay for school or related needs while at school, God always provided or opened a door, starting with the AAUW scholarship. I am proud to have received that scholarship. I would never have strived to advance my graduate degree or applied for graduate college if I hadn't read what I saw on your website or attended the groups at Sonoma State. Without your scholarships, I would have had to work full time, which would not have allowed me to strengthen and uplift my mind academically and socially. I would not have developed the courage to be a strong woman like the ones I saw on the website. AAUW helped me to become a female educator of color at a university. The first in my family to do so. Thank you, AAUW, for believing in me.

There's nothing better than to share all of the important work we do together every day with our Instagram and Facebook accounts. Are you following us?

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the posts and other ways we can use this communications tool — dedicated to AAUW Healdsburg. Email Communications Director, **Kim Alexander**, with your thoughts! Get those creative juices flowing!



Look at our recent example. Here, AAUW members and guests are given front row seats at True West's presentation at our January 13 Speaker Series.

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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