

The Grapevine

March 2025

Volume 40, Number 7

President's Message

MARCH ON!!!

We have survived and, I hope, thrived even though we are surrounded by chaos.

Planning for our upcoming "May Spring Fling" lunch and Annual Meeting is well underway. Our Nominating Committee is still working on the new slate of Board Members that we will be voting on. Stay tuned for detailed information and save the date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

The Tech Trek Team has completed most of the work interviewing and selecting the final list of girls who will be attending camps at Sonoma State and Monterey this summer. Expect to see more requests for volunteers!

Our Scholarship Committees are busy reviewing applications. We have received donations from 53% (\$38,000) of our members towards our goal of \$50,000 for 2024-25 and will be continuing to solicit funds through the end of June. Please keep in mind that with no Homes Tour or Forum we are relying on your generous support for these mission critical scholarships. So, it's not too late to make your first donation or to add an additional donation to "close the gap".

Finally, please read the article from the California Public Policy newsletter on Project 2025 on the next page.

March On to Spring!

Nancy Jane Andrews
Healdsburg AAUW President



Project 2025 is Becoming Reality

Take Action to Fight Back!



As Co-Directors Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko outlined in a [webinar](#) in October 2024, the objectives of Project 2025 directly counter the Public Policy Priorities of AAUW California. **With federal policy pronouncements and changes taking place at a head spinning pace** since January 20, 2025, it is clear that there is a concerted effort by a number of coalitions in the federal government to make Project 2025 become reality. For example:

- The Executive Order declaring that there are “only two genders, male and female”.
- The Executive Order eliminating federal funds for schools that recognize transgender identities or teach about structural racism, white privilege, and unconscious bias.
- The Executive Order directing federal agencies to look for ways to expand access to private school vouchers.
- The Executive Order rescinding a dozen Biden-era executive actions supporting racial equity and combating discrimination against gay and transgender people.
- The Office of Management and Budget order freezing all federal financial assistance (since rescinded but with a standing order for agencies to restrict DEI programming and “woke gender ideology”).
- The Executive Order withdrawing the United States from the 2015 Paris agreement which seeks to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

While this may seem overwhelming, note that there are already individuals and coalitions who are pushing back in a number of ways, from [direct refusal](#) to comply, to [spamming federal surveillance accounts](#), to direct [legal challenges](#).



AAUW California is building out our own action-items database, which will go live for you this spring. **In the interim, we will provide a short list and ask you to take action by choosing one self-focused, one other-focused, and one political-focused item from the list below.**



Self-Focused: Education

- rewatch the AAUW Project 2025 [webinar](#) from the fall, as needed, to get a sense of what Project 2025 is/does and/or read the [document](#) itself.
- read the articles linked above to better understand how some individuals and organizations are working to fight back.



Other-Focused: Education & Connection

- whatever you take away from your homework in self-education--be sure to tell one friend about what you learned. You can do this over lunch.



Politically-Focused: Outreach to Senators

- sign the [petition](#) opposing the confirmation of Linda McMahon. Text “SIGN PTGHEX” to 50409.
- reach out to potential swing Senators from outside of CA to voice your opposition to confirmation/s:

Lisa Murkowski, Alaska. 202-224-6665. Contact [form](#)
Susan Collins, Maine. 202-224-2523. Contact [form](#)
Thom Tillis, North Carolina. 202-224-6342. Contact [form](#)
Rand Paul, Kentucky. 202-224-4343. Contact [form](#)
Mitch McConnell, Kentucky. 202-224-2541. Contact [form](#)
John Curtis, Utah. 202-224-5251. Contact [form](#)
Bill Cassidy, Louisiana. 202-224-5824. Contact [form](#)
Joni Ernst, Iowa. 202-224-3254. Contact [form](#)
Chuck Grassley, Iowa 202-224-3744. Contact [form](#)

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE AAUW CA PUBLIC POLICY WEBSITE.](#)

Speaker Series

February Program Follow-Up

Thank you to those who attended our February program on Reach for Home. Angie Escudero provided an overview of the Reach for Home programs in northern Sonoma County with a focus on the L&M Village in Healdsburg. To learn more about how to donate, volunteer, attend a facility tour, and subscribe to the Reach for Home newsletter, contact Angie at angie@reachforhome.org



Monday, March 10

Madeleine Keegan O'Connell, CEO of YWCA Sonoma County
Expanding Horizons to Safeguard our Community

Established in 1975, YWCA Sonoma County is deeply rooted in programs centered on domestic violence services and continues to expand and innovate to better serve the needs of our community. At the heart of their services lies an unwavering commitment to being a lifeline for those in desperate need.



Our Speaker, Madeleine Keegan O'Connell will discuss the four pillars of their programming:

- 24/7 Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline. This hotline is not just a number; it is a beacon of hope for local families experiencing violence in the one place where we should all feel most safe: our own homes.
- Safe House Shelter is a confidential sanctuary and offers refuge to those escaping from the horrors of domestic violence. This space is not just a shelter; it is a haven where individuals can find solace, safety, and a sense of normalcy amidst the chaos.
- Counseling Support Services is the glue that binds programming together: domestic violence support groups and individual counseling for children, youth and adults.
- Childcare Services and Therapeutic Preschool understands the profound impact of trauma on young minds. YWCA Sonoma County operates childcare services for infant/toddler and preschool-aged children across six locations.
 - One of a kind in Sonoma County is *A Special Place Therapeutic Preschool*. This unique institution offers on-site counseling and social-emotional learning groups to children who have experienced trauma.
 - Healdsburg Community Center is the newest location for childcare service for infant/toddler and preschool-aged children.

Monday, March 10 11:30 to 1:00 pm

Healdsburg's Abel DeLuna Community Center, 1557 Healdsburg Avenue

Bring your own brown bag lunch.

The **presentation begins at noon**, followed by a brief update re: AAUW chapter activities.

Bring guests!

Michelle Regan, Speaker Series Chair

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.



Spring Fling

Wednesday May 14

Club House, Healdsburg Golf Club at Tayman Park

11:30 am to 1:30 pm



Spring Wine 'N Dine Saturday, April 12

Watch for our Eblasts in March to sign up to **host** and/or to participate as **guests**. All are welcome and encouraged to participate!

We hope to see you on April 12.

Cheers ,

Cindy Powers and **Judy Edmonds**, Wine 'N Dine Co-chairs



Winter Lunch Bunch February 12

Twenty-four members met at the Windsor French bistro, Maison Porcella, for lunch. Our entrees were delish as well as the chocolate mousse dessert. The staff also treated us to our choice of coffees. It was wonderful to see old friends and meet new members. We meet again late spring. See everyone again!!

Scarlett Wood and **Pam Handley**

Social Activities

Did You Hear About the Winter Wine 'N Dine?

It was a dark and stormy night on February 1, but our AAUW members were undaunted as they set out, knowing the great evening in store for them at the Winter Wine 'N Dine.

Always a fun event, our intrepid members spent an evening enjoying an abundance of satisfying comfort food, a lovely French-style banquet, or a fantastic Mexican fiesta. The diners have since been raving about the evening, both the food and the socializing!

Making it easy for everyone, each guest brought a dish to share, while the hosts prepared the main course. Appreciation goes to members **Jan** (and Brent) **Stanley**, **Wendy Bertalon** (and Steve Wainwright), and **Pam Jones** (and Steve Herskovitz) for opening their homes for the evening.

While you are enjoying photos of the Wine 'N Dine, you might consider joining in on Saturday, April 12 for the next one.

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



Mexican food delight at Wendy Bertalon's



Très Bon at Pam Jones's



Dining in comfort on a rainy night at Jan Stanley's

Tech Trek 2025 is Here!



We are pleased to announce that Tech Trek 2025 is officially underway! Check out AAUW California's updated and informative [Tech Trek Website](#).

Our Healdsburg Tech Trek Selection Committee has received nominations from a total of five schools in Cloverdale, Geyserville, Healdsburg and Windsor. Interviews are currently taking place to select this year's campers.

This year, instead of all eight of our rising 8th-grade girls attending our week-long Tech Trek at Sonoma State University (SSU), we will have six at SSU (June 22-28) and two at UC Santa Cruz (July 13-19). Save those dates! We'll need dedicated AAUW Healdsburg volunteers at both campuses in order to support all eight girls.

You can contribute to AAUW and our branch's mission by volunteering for this life-changing experience. You will get as much out of it as the students!

Please look over this [pdf document](#) and find a meaningful volunteer role for yourself. Invite a fellow member to join you! Perhaps you could both be Dorm Monitors. Once you've selected your role, please inform **Debbi Crapeau** (dcrapeau@gmail.com) or **Anna-Laura Jansma** (aljansma@impulse.net) of your choice.



Financial contributions also are appreciated and **Patty McHugh** (goodlifebuenavida@yahoo.com) will gladly guide you through the process.

All volunteers and donors are invited to meet our new campers at our May Meet & Greet event in which Tech Trek Alumnae (TTAGers) share their experiences and answer questions for our 2025 Tech Trekkers. You'll feel proud to be involved as you witness Tech Trek's ongoing positive impact on these young lives.

Anna-Laura Jansma, Tech Trek Co Chair



Unleash your wild creative



Do you like to write? Does researching a topic and creating compelling copy get your creative juices flowing? The Development Committee of the Healdsburg Fund is looking for you. The commitment is up to you, but individual assignments would require about two hours of your time per assignment. And you can decide how many or few assignments you would like! If you would like to give it a try or would like to learn more, email renee@reneegade.com.

TTAG is going to have a booth on Clean, Sustainable, and Renewable Piezoelectric Energy at the North Bay Science Discovery Day. Visit our booth and let your family and friends know!



North Bay **SCIENCE** DISCOVERY DAY

Saturday, March 8, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sonoma County Fairgrounds
FREE Parking & FREE Admission

A science festival to spark children's wonder and curiosity for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. **Over 100 hands-on exhibits!** Explore rockets and beehives, robots and bats, forests and hearts, animation, animals, water, and more.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

www.northbayscience.org



Exploratorium Explorations

A joint TTAG event hosted by the Exploratorium and SF TTAG
On January 12, thirty TTAG girls from San Francisco and Healdsburg gathered to share a day of connection, inspiration and fun.

For many of us, it was a new experience to travel to San Francisco by Smart Train and the Golden Gate Ferry. Using public transportation provided time to enjoy the exceptional views and reconnect with group members. After a short walk from the Ferry Building in San Francisco, we were greeted at the Exploratorium door and invited to enter “behind the scenes” locations where the magic of scientific discovery is created.



The day’s activities started with lunch time shared by the SF and Healdsburg TTAG members. The girls were able to meet and compare their interests and TTAG experiences. Next, a panel of female biologists and engineers shared their career path histories and workplace roles and challenges. Finally, the girls joined a guided tour of the labs where Exploratorium exhibits are designed and constructed. After the lab tour, one TTAGER commented that working in such a setting would be nothing less than a dream job.



After this fascinating insider’s view of the Exploratorium, the girls were able to explore the exhibit hall with a more informed perspective and sense of discovery. They dove into the countless interactive demonstrations that explore the concepts of physics and the natural world around us. Some favorites were standing in the middle of a simulated tornado, observing what happens when all color disappears, and of course, that last tempting attraction on the way out, the gift shop!



We are most grateful for San Francisco TTAG’s invitation to join them at this unforgettable event hosted by the Exploratorium.



Rachael Toral's Story **2017 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC**

I was 31 years old when I finally figured out what I wanted to do with my life: I wanted to be a nurse. After moving back home to California from Boston, I enrolled at Santa Rosa Junior College, where I immediately started completing the prerequisites needed to transfer to a four-year degree nursing program.

My determination paid off when I was accepted into the Bachelor of Science Nursing program at Samuel Merritt University in Oakland. This was a full-time program which meant I would be unable to work during the academic year or rely on others for financial help. Desperate for a solution, I explored opportunities for scholarships and discovered the support offered by the Healdsburg branch of AAUW. I am most grateful to report that I had the

immense good fortune of being awarded your scholarship in 2017. The funds I received were crucial in purchasing my schoolbooks and supplies for both years at Samuel Merritt. This scholarship provided the financial assistance necessary to help me successfully complete my program, allowing me to graduate Summa Cum Laude in 2019.

My career path took a significant turn as I faced the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. I worked at Kaiser in Santa Rosa, supporting patients during these unprecedented times. Later, I joined the ICU at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, where I currently work. I love my job and felt extremely proud to serve our community during such a critical period. Having enough quality nurses continues to be vital for every community, and the generosity of the Healdsburg AAUW members not only helped me reach my goals but also enabled me to help our community during a vulnerable time.

I am tremendously grateful for AAUW and the generosity of its members, who give back by supporting individuals like myself. The AAUW award eased the financial strain of prioritizing my education and my family's future, which I deeply appreciate. More than that, it reaffirmed my course and belief in myself. It showed my children that following your dreams in faith is always worth the risk and sacrifices. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Healdsburg Branch of the AAUW for your belief in me, my dreams, and my education.

Seeking a Data Diva

The Development Committee of the Healdsburg Fund is looking for a data diva. If you are someone who uses Excel for a grocery list and thinks that spreadsheets are fun, we'd love to meet you. The projects are small, and you'd be part of a team that is as passionate about data as you will be. If you are worried that your skills are rusty, we will train and mentor to get you up to speed. Sorting data, filtering columns of numbers, preparing reports...if even the idea of a spreadsheet makes your heart beat a little faster, email renee@reneegade.com to learn more.



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. 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.