

The Grapevine

April 2025

Volume 40, Number 8

President's Message

I am sitting at home on a rainy day in March writing my column for our April issue and hoping for a break in the rain tomorrow for the Healdsburg St. Patrick's Day Parade. Listening to the rain makes me think about our reservoirs filling up and the salmon and steelhead populations that depend on year-round water availability and suitable habitat.

This week, I attended a tour of the Russian River Keeper's Hanson Project, which is organized by Norm Fujita of Healdsburg Rotary. It is an incredibly ambitious floodplain reclamation effort along the Russian River. Perhaps we can collaborate with Rotary when the earth moving is complete and it's time to replant with native plants!

Please connect with me if this interests you as we work to reach out further into our community. Other community outreach opportunities are, of course, of interest too.

Nancy Jane Andrews
Healdsburg AAUW President



The Latest in Mission Based Programs

Junior Internship Presentation Night

This annual event was held March 5 at Healdsburg High School. Six AAUW members were there to listen to five or six Junior students present a Powerpoint on the internship that they were assigned. The internships were lined up with the possible career path that each student might be interested in.

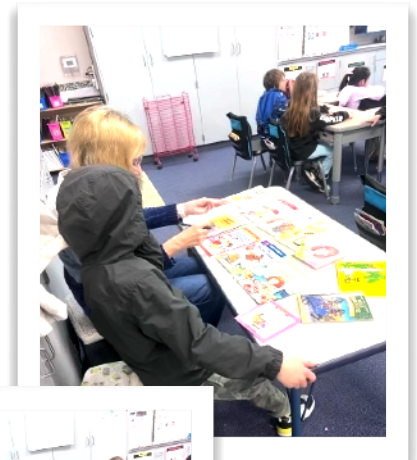
Reading Rocks

The five Reading Rocks volunteers at Mattie Washburn in Windsor passed out books to each first grader the week of March 10. The kids and teachers were so thankful for the books.

If you are interested in reading one-on-one with a first or second grader, we could use more Reading Rocks volunteers at Mattie Washburn in Windsor for next school year. It is a very rewarding experience! To be a volunteer, you need a current TB test and be fingerprinted. If you are interested, please contact Catherine Mock (ckmock54@gmail.com).

Catherine Mock

Director of Mission Based Programs



March 10 Speaker Series Program Follow-up

Madeleine Keegan O'Connell, CEO of YWCA Sonoma County, gave an exceptional talk on the YWCA Sonoma County, providing a comprehensive overview of their programs and services for domestic violence including the YWCA preschool. Unfortunately, AV technical issues were encountered and the video was unable to be watched. I strongly encourage you to visit the YWCA website www.ywcasc.org/media to watch the video from former clients (Wendy, Diana and Trevor) and learn how you can contribute to stopping domestic violence in Sonoma County.

You can support this cause by:

- * Giving: Your donations help sustain and expand the vital services offered by YWCA Sonoma County.
- * Raising Awareness: Share information and educate others about the impact of domestic violence and the resources available.
- * Volunteering: Offer your time and skills to support the programs and initiatives of the YWCA.

Thank you for your continued support.



AAUW Speaker Series – Monday, April 14

Corazón: A non-profit assisting low-income families in Northern Sonoma County

You may only know Corazón as one of the sponsors of Healdsburg's highly successful Dias de Muertes celebration. This non-profit does so much more! Corazón is dedicated to bridging the racial and economic division in our community and to supporting multiculturalism by taking collective action surrounding the social determinants of health.



Marcy Flores, Executive Director

Corazón's Healdsburg Family Resource Center provides individual and family case management including:

- * Financial coaching and financial literacy
- * Computer skills
- * Direct financial assistance
- * Referrals to partner agencies



Monique Gonzalez, Associate
Director of Development

Programs also include:

- * Prenatal education and support
- * Childcare
- * Bilingual family literacy programs
- * First generation college counseling and scholarships
- * Parents support and advocacy
- * Adult education

Monday April 14, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Healdsburg Abel De Luna Community Center, 1557 Healdsburg Avenue

Bring your own brown bag lunch. The presentation begins at noon, followed by a brief update on AAUW chapter activities.

RSVP to **Celeste Plaister** at celesteplaister@gmail.com so we have an idea of how many will be joining us. We encourage you to bring guests!

Michelle Regan, Speaker Series Chair



Spring Fling 2025

Join in the annual Spring celebration of our Healdsburg branch accomplishments of the past year:

WHEN: Wednesday May 14, 11:30 am

*WHERE: Healdsburg Golf Club at Tayman Park Clubhouse
927 S. Fitch Mountain Road, Healdsburg*

WHAT TO EXPECT: Appreciation to those who served as officers this year, and our annual installation of incoming officers. Individual stations where members can see what our committees are actually doing. This can be educational, social, or volunteer. It's a chance to sign up if anything is of interest to you.

*BRING: Your own Picnic Pack: Plate, Flatware, Wine Glass and Napkin!**

Last Names beginning with the specified letters, please bring the following (along with a serving utensil) :

A-K: Salad

L-Q: Dessert

R-Z: Wine

RSVP: By May 4 to kathrynkeg@gmail.com

**Compostable Bamboo Picnic Packs will be available to purchase for \$5 CASH ONLY if you forget to bring your own place setting!*



Healdsburg TTAG Shines at the North Bay Science Discovery Day

On March 8, AAUW Healdsburg TTAG illuminated the power of clean, sustainable, and renewable piezoelectric energy at the North Bay Science Discovery Day, a free, one-day community science festival that drew nearly 12,000 attendees and featured over 100 exhibitors.

The TTAG booth featured six dynamic, hands-on exhibits and vibrant, eye-catching posters, all thoughtfully designed and built by TTAG members. One of our greatest challenges was simplifying the concept of piezoelectricity—the ability of certain materials, such as quartz crystal, to generate an electrical charge when pressed or squeezed—into an engaging and accessible experience for our 8 to 14-year-old target audience. Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of ten TTAG volunteers, children and their families were immersed in interactive demonstrations that sparked curiosity and ignited a passion for science.

The journey required countless hours of planning and preparation, but the experience was deeply rewarding. It was truly a day of discovery for both TTAGers and advisors alike!

Since all the local library conference rooms were closed for construction, I'd like to extend a special thanks to **Leslie Mooreland** for securing the Enso conference room and generously providing pizza for our booth volunteers who met for a training session a week before the event.

Karla Rosen, Healdsburg TTAG Co-Chair



Brenda and Afiya demonstrate the piezoelectric hand press and flashlight, an electric charge that lights an LED. No batteries needed!



Two young visitors play a tune on the piezoelectric piano when they press a hidden piezoelectric sensor under the colored keys.



Sally demonstrates the Ultrasonic LED Strip. LED lights turn on and off as the wood block moves closer or farther from the ultrasonic sensor's piezoelectric sensors.



Susana discusses piezoelectricity with one of the NBSD's core committee volunteers.



Valeria observes as this future scientist experiments with the Ultrasonic.



Bryanna shows how a piezoelectric speaker produces sound when charged.

Tech Trek 2025 Campers Chosen!



Our branch is leading the way in California's Tech Trek camper selection! We have already screened, interviewed, and chosen our 2025 campers. The outstanding quality of this year's nominees made choosing only eight a difficult process.

Imagine our excitement when we were awarded two additional spots this year!

This summer, six of our selected students will attend **Camp Franklin at Sonoma State** (June 22-28) while four will head to **Camp Carson at UC Santa Cruz** (July 13-19).

As we gear up for another amazing Tech Trek experience, we ask for your support to ensure that both camps run smoothly. Here's how you can help:

1) Be a Dorm Monitor/Mom:

Volunteers stay on campus for the week (in private rooms, of course!) and support our campers—many of whom will be away from home for the first time. You guide them through their week-long project each evening and your presence helps create a positive, nurturing environment. We promise that these girls will enrich your life just as much as you do theirs.

2) Be a Room Monitor:

Spend a day or two, or even half a day in the classrooms and workshops or on a field trip with our Tech-Trekkers.

Available for either? Contact **Anna-Laura Jansma** at aljansma@impulse.net or **Debbi Crapeau** at dcrapeau@gmail.com to learn more about the application process.



Tech Trekkers Solder Circuit Boards

All volunteers are invited to our Meet & Greet event in May. Stay tuned—location and date will be announced soon! You'll be introduced to this year's campers from Cloverdale's Washington School, Healdsburg Junior High, Windsor's Cali Calmecac Language Academy and the Windsor Junior High, talk with their families and hear stories from Tech Trek alumnae.

Thank you, AAUW Healdsburg members, for helping make this life-changing experience possible!

Tech Trek Committee:

Anna-Laura Jansma and **Debbi Crapeau** (Co-chairs), **Danielle Diaz**, **Annabel Bentley**

Letter to the Publisher

The following was received in response to the AAUW California newsletter article which ran in the March edition. The Grapevine staff publish articles as submitted by the respective authors and the views and opinions represent the author and not the policy of The Grapevine communications team.

We always enjoy reading *The Grapevine* to learn what other members have been up to and what projects our AAUW chapter has been supporting. But the article on p. 2 of the March issue by the AAUW California denouncing Project 2025 troubled us. The AAUW Public Policy position assumes that all Healdsburg members disagree with the list of Presidential Executive Orders listed on p. 2 of the Newsletter. It may come as a surprise to you but there are members of this chapter who actually agree with many of those Executive Orders. In particular, we agree with the first one listed that there are “only two biological genders, male and female.” We believe that allowing biological males to compete against biological women in sports is “deeply unfair” (which our Governor Gavin Newsom agrees with) because of differences in muscle mass and bone structure that are not overcome, even with years of estrogen therapy.

Years ago, before the fall of the Soviet Union, U.S. Olympic officials objected to the participation of Russian, Bulgarian and Romanian “female” athletes because of their obvious male characteristics and demanded that they be tested for male hormones. Their participation was considered cheating because of their male characteristics. Yet, the previous administration attempted to broaden Title IX to include “trans-women” (meaning men identifying as women) as a protected category, which would have implicitly allowed male athletes to compete against female athletes and allowed them to use women’s locker rooms and showers. Fortunately that attempt was blocked by a federal judge and the decision never went into effect. But it seems that the AAUW Healdsburg Chapter wants to reinstate this dramatic shift in policy, from the one that in the past protected girls and women from having to compete against men, to now endorsing so-called “transwomen” (like Lia Thomas) competing against biological women and girls. This is not only unfair, it is also “cheating,” under rules governing competitive sports. How can elevating dogma over biological science be considered fair and leveling the playing field? Our organization was founded in part to promote girls and women, not to give biological men identifying as women an unfair advantage.

We do so many wonderful and meaningful activities as a group, many of them described elsewhere in the March newsletter, that are uplifting to both the spirit and the sense of comity that AAUW embodies. Encouraging biological males to defeat women and girls in sports is not consistent with our mission of promoting girls and women in all walks of life. Your policy elevates dogma over biology. Please consider our position and rethink your policy.

Thank you!

Julia Weller ojweller@gmail.com, **Yvonne Hyatt** yehyatt@mac.com, **Judy Widlow** Calgal10@gmail.com, **Scarlett Wood** allabouttennis@gmail.com, **Mary Jane Corson** mjcorson@digital-path.net

1 <https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/06/politics/newsom-trans-athletes-womens-sports/index.html>

2 *Transwoman Elite Athletes: Their Extra Percentage Relative to Female Physiology*, National Library of Medicine, National Center for Biotechnology Information, (July 26, 2022) <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9331831/>

3 “A History of Olympic Gender Scandals” <https://flashbak.com/a-history-of-olympic-gender-scandals-15401/> (May 29, 2012)

4 Title IX is a landmark civil rights law enacted as part of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibiting sex-based discrimination in any school or educational facility that receives federal funding. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2024/04/20/biden-title-ix-rules-explained/73385946007/>

5 <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/court-blocks-biden-title-ix-rule-that-would-have-allowed-males-in-women-s-sports/ar-BB1raWJi>

Holly Phillips' Story

2012 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC

In 2009 at the age of 34 years old, I decided to start a journey at the Santa Rosa Junior College. As an unemployed single mother of two, with my GED in hand and a belief that if I stepped out in faith I could go as far as I dreamed. I set out on my path one goal at a time. My first task was to become a certified alcohol and substance counselor while completing my general education and prerequisite requirements, for Sonoma State University. As a recovering addict, I knew all too well the despair, challenges, and emptiness that engulf the soul and spirit in active addiction. With almost a decade of recovery, I had learned some skills for living and wanted to share the gift of hope. In completing my general education requirements, I discovered that I loved school, and I was actually good at it.

During my time at the SRJC, my family and I faced financial hardships and relied on community resources along with the support of friends and family. As an honor roll student and struggling mom, I applied for and was awarded the AAUW Scholarship to support my transition to Sonoma State. Upon completion of my certificates in advocacy, alcohol, and in other drug services, and my Associate's Degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences at SRJC, I continued my journey at Sonoma State University, declaring a major in Human Development.

At Sonoma State, I learned about the McNair Scholars program, which supports first-generation college students and underrepresented students in their pursuit of graduate degrees. It was the McNair Scholars program that guided me through my undergraduate studies and led to my acceptance into Humboldt State University's Social Work Program. Throughout my journey, I faced the daily challenges of balancing the demands of being a full-time student, a full-time mom supporting my children in extracurricular activities, and providing a safe, stable, and nurturing home. I'm delighted to report that in 2016, I obtained my Master's Degree in Social Work and chose a career dedicated to serving children and families during their times of crisis.

Since that time, I've been working for the county of Sonoma as a Child Protection Social Worker, helping reunify families and when necessary helping children find permanency and their forever homes.

The AAUW award helped ease some of the financial strain of prioritizing my education and my family's future, which I deeply appreciated. But more than that, it reaffirmed my course and my belief in myself. It let me show 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.



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.