

The Grapevine

June 2025

Volume 40, Number 10

President's Message

Summer is upon us!

This is my favorite time of year with the farmers' markets open and wonderful flowers everywhere.

Our May 14 Spring Fling/Annual Meeting was a great success with delicious food and perfect weather. Many thanks to our event co-chairs: Barbara Reid, Kathryn Henderson, and Violet Nelson. See the next page for an itemized list of accomplishments and the work we've done collectively during the year.

Our Board of Directors will be meeting in mid-August prior to the Fall Kickoff Party. Watch for "Save the Date" notices.

Have a wonderful summer!

Nancy Jane Andrews
Healdsburg AAUW President



AAUW Healdsburg 2024-2025 Goals and Achievements

- **Improve end-of-year member donations to 75%**
 - o End-of-year member donations increased from 56% to 62%.
- **Continue the Speakers Series Including Public Policy and DEI-focused content**
 - o October 2024 - Patrick Mukaida, Board Chair, and Claire O'Neil, Healdsburg Museum
 - o November 2024 - Kristen Dambrowski, Executive Director of the Northwest Region of Canine Companions.
 - o December 2024 - Jon Haupt and Charity Anderson, Sonoma County Healdsburg Regional Library
 - o January 2025 - Kathryn Philip, CEO Founder, True West Film Center
 - o Feb 2025 - Angie Excudero, Director of Development, Reach For Home
 - o March 2025 - Madeleine Keegan O'Connell, CEO of YWCA Sonoma County
 - o April 2025 - Marcy Flores, Executive Director and Monique Gonzales, Corazon
 - o May 2025 - Rear Admiral Baker and Betsy Hafner, re: Ukraine

- **Increase membership to 200 members**

- o 190 current members

- **TechTrek and TTAG onward and upward**

- o 10 Campers, six to Sonoma State and four to UC Santa Cruz
- o 21 TTAG Members

- **Scholarships-Kerry Weber Elkind**

- o High School Scholarships -- 10 x \$2,000 = \$20,000
- o JNR Foundation Scholarships - 8 x \$4,000 = \$32,000
- o SRJC Reentry Scholarships - 5 x \$4,000 = \$20,000

- **Public Policy**

- o Letter writing to congressional swing districts
- o Speaker Series: Understanding Ukraine's Economic, Political, Military and Humanitarian Dimensions
- o Corazón Healdsburg, Healthcare

- **Membership**

- o Continued new member socials and orientation
- o Continued buddies program
- o Membership currently totals 190 members

- **STEM**

- o **Tech Trek:** In Summer 2024, sent eight girls to Camp Franklin at Sonoma State University (SSU). This summer our branch is sending a total of 10 outstanding girls, six to Camp Franklin in June and four to Camp Carson at UC Santa Cruz in July.▪
- o Mary Barsony organized and conducted an Astronomy Night for all 90 Camp Franklin campers last summer. In November, Mary provided a training workshop and three trained Healdsburg TTAGers who will assist at this summer's SSU Galileoscope workshops.
- o At last week's Meet and Greet, 48 people attended including 8 of the 10 campers.
- o **Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG):** 21 TTAG Members
 - Healdsburg/San Francisco TTAG Exploratorium trip (January)
 - Piezoelectric Booth at the North Bay Science Discovery Day with over 10,000 visitors (early March)
 - Leadership Workshop for the TTAG Board (late March)
 - Enhanced Social Media presence with a Healdsburg TTAG Instagram page and publication of 3 Healdsburg TTAG Newsletters.
 - Continue to assist Tech Trek: TTAGers serve as moderators at the Meet and Greet in the Spring and at the Panel Presentation in the Fall.

- **Mission-Based Program**

- o Junior Internship Night at High School
- o Financial Literacy Night
- o Reading Rocks Program and books to all first-grade children at West Side, Healdsburg Elementary and Mattie Washburn
- o School supplies funding of \$1,390

- **Fundraising**

- o Raised \$44,000 from end-of-year appeal
- o Received grants of \$32,000
- o Last Chance donations at Hafner Winery Event (figure not available at press time)

- **Communications**

- o Kept members informed via over 110 e-blasts
- o Website updated
- o Ten Grapevine Issues including Mission-Based Programs, STEM, New Member Bios and Scholarship Success Stories
- o Thinking of you cards sent to members
- o Social Media Posts Cover 17 events

- **Social Activities**

- o Happy Hours– Orsi (75), Paul Maher (60), Hafner (figure not available at press time)
- o Lunch Bunch – Tisza (28), Maison Porcello (26), Geyserville Grill (13)
- o Cultural Events-Buck Institute (35), Canine Companions (22), Asti Rail/Bike (18)
- o Wine ‘N Dine – October (24), February (34), April (43), June (figure not available at press time)
- o Holiday Party (80), Fall Kickoff (60), Spring Fling/Annual Meeting (60)

- **New Board Intro**

- o Nominating Committee: Celeste Plaister, Donna Campoverde, Julie Hanamura
 - *President: Nancy Jane Andrews
 - *Past President: Laura Tredinnick
 - *Vice President: Celeste Plaister
 - *Secretary: Pam Jones
 - *Treasurer: Julie Hanamura/Renée Simi
 - *Communications Director **Open**
 - *Public Policy Director **Open**
 - *Fundraising Director: Renée Simi/Julie Hanamura
 - *Scholarships Director: Ann Elston
 - *Membership Director: Donna Campoverde
 - *Mission Based Programs: Cathy Mock/Cristie Cameron
 - *Social Activities Director: Mary Newman
 - *Stem Director: Anna Laura Jansma

- **Approval of Dues increase in 2026**

Looking forward to accomplishing even more together next year.

Speaker Series Addresses Ukraine's Survival

Our '24-'25 speaker series wrapped up in May with a dynamic presentation by Betsy Hafner, retired US Deputy Assistant Trade Representative and Dr. Michael Baker, retired US Rear Admiral. Over 60 members and friends showed up to hear about why Ukraine's survival as an independent nation matters, from economic, political and humanitarian perspectives. Our AAUW members also offered their knowledge of the serious events unfolding in Ukraine.

Board Member **Kim Alexander** mentioned a grassroots organization which has been supporting volunteer teams of Ukrainians who deliver medicine, food generators and stoves, winterize homes, run shelters, repair homes and schools and evacuate people out of danger.

To learn more about this organization go to: [UkraineTrustChain](https://ukrainetrustchain.org).

To get up to date information from Dr. Baker about Ukraine, and related matters, write to him at Bakersurgeon@gmail.com and he will add you to his email list. We forward to seeing you in October when we will resume our Speaker series.

Michelle Reagan, Chair of Speaker Series and **Celeste Plaister**, Vice President



2025 High School Scholarships

The High School Scholarship Committee is thrilled to announce that we have chosen the recipients of this year's scholarships. We received an impressive 53 applications from dedicated and talented students representing Healdsburg, Windsor, and Cloverdale high schools. Each applicant was evaluated using a comprehensive five-point rubric, taking into account academic performance, involvement in community and school activities, financial need, and a thoughtfully written essay.

The quality of this year's applicants was truly remarkable, reflecting the hard work and commitment of students across our community. Thanks to the generous contributions of our members and the invaluable partnership with the JNR Foundation, we are proud to award scholarships to deserving young women.

Our AAUW fund provided ten \$2,000 scholarships, while our partners at the JNR Foundation made it possible to offer six additional \$4,000 scholarships. In recognition of exceptional merit, two students who met the criteria for both funding sources received scholarships of \$6,000 each.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to this effort, especially our dedicated committee members, **Annabel Bentley**, **Debbie Potmesil**, and **Julie Hannamura**. Thank you also to our generous donors. Your support has made a profound difference in the lives of these outstanding young women, helping them take the next step toward their educational goals.

We congratulate all of the scholarship recipients! We look forward to seeing the incredible things you will accomplish in the future.

Beth Wolk, High School Scholarship Chair

Want to Join Our Board of Directors and Help Further Our Mission?

Communications Director

Our AAUW chapter needs a **Communications Director** for our 2025-2026 year. Kim Alexander has reached the end of her three-year commitment. Our strong communication infrastructure is vital in today's environment. It enables members to quickly access information about our mission-critical initiatives, as well as find fellowship by participating in enriching activities. The incoming director will benefit from the efficient and easy to manage systems established by previous leadership.

The experienced team reporting to our Communications Director provides up to date information on our website, bi-weekly announcements through our e-blasts, and colorful monthly news in the Grapevine. Social Media, Publicity and Correspondence.

Would you like to be at the center of this hub and work with this well-honed team of enthusiastic communicators, as well as join our Board of Directors to plan for future events? Let either **Kim Alexander** and/or **Celeste Plaister** know if you'd like more information about this important but easily managed position.

Kimeliza28@yahoo.com

Celesteplaister@gmail.com

Public Policy Director

Are you searching for a way to make a meaningful contribution during these challenging times? How about joining our Board of Directors as our **Public Policy Director**? The goal of our Public Policy Team is to encourage our members to be active citizens dedicated to betterment of women and girls, including equitable public education for all. The director chairs the Public Policy Team and leads our branch's efforts to inform the community and lobby policy makers about issues that are important to our members and all women and girls.

Tyra Benoit, our past Public Policy Director, is unable to take on the Director role at this time, but would be happy to be on the Team that supports this position. During her tenure, Tyra and her team's accomplishments included organizing a moving and well received symposium on women's reproductive freedom, informing the community about the unfolding climate crisis and putting a spotlight on equal pay issues.

As our Public Policy Director, with the help of your Team and our Board, you can directly address the critical issues impacting girls, women and our community. Let either **Tyra Benoit** and/or **Celeste Plaister** know if you'd like to know more about this influential and rewarding position.

TyraBenoit@gmail.com

Celesteplaister@gmail.com

Lunch Bunch

On May 7, 13 members gathered for our spring lunch bunch at Geyserville Grille. We were a joyful group, sharing our life experiences with one another while enjoying our chosen entrees for lunch. Again the gathering was an opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new members.

Best, **Scarlett Wood** and **Pam Handley**



Spring Meeting 2025

Our annual Spring meeting was greeted with another day of beautiful weather at the Healdsburg Golf Club at Tayman Park. Sixty enthusiastic members came together to celebrate our accomplishments for the year as well recognize the changes moving forward. This year, there were tables inside to highlight and sign-up for volunteer activities.



Thanking the Current Board



New Board of Directors



President Nancy Jane Andrews highlighted all the goals and accomplishments for 2024-2025 in our Spring meeting



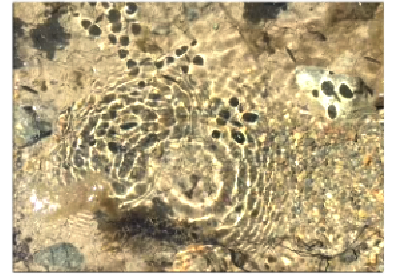
Members enjoyed lunch on the lawn

Following Along With Our Hiking Groups



The Monday Hikers enjoy 3-5 mile hikes weekly. On Monday, May 5, we hiked approximately three miles with a 250 ft. elevation gain. The Pepperwood Preserve in Santa Rosa sits within the traditional lands of the Wappo tribe. It is open only on special event days or by private invitation. It is a beautiful expanse of a 3,200 acre preserve and serves as a refuge for over 900 species of plants and animals. Monday hiker **Christine Martin** says: "It was a beautiful day with

amazing wild flowers and a wonderful naturalist, (Viviane Mercés) to lead us! It gives me joy that my first attempt at hike planning was something so many enjoyed!



Carrie Thomas invited the Friday AAUW hiking group to her Lake Sonoma ranch, led by **Hillary Kampour**.

Starting out at out Rockpile Road, we walked to the bottom of the valley then took a bit of a dogleg to a waterfall! The terrain included some fire road and some single track through wild native grasses with about several hundred feet in elevation.

Susana Yavorsky



Tech Trek 2025 Meet & Greet

On Tuesday, May 6, eight future Tech Trek campers attended our annual Meet & Greet event, held this year at Healdsburg Junior High. Campers were joined by their families, teachers, Tech Trek donors, TTAG (Tech Trek Alumnae Group) members and leaders, as well as AAUW board members. The aim of the evening was to familiarize attendees with the week-long Tech Trek STEM camp experience.

To help set the stage, TTAGers shared about their experiences at Tech Trek and about their participation in TTAG events. After presentations, TTAGers



led our upcoming

campers in small group discussions, while families and other guests participated in their own Q&A circles to learn more about what the TechTrekks could expect at camp. Each new camper received a backpack filled with useful goodies such as notebooks, writing utensils and a few fun treats (including Gummy Bears) to help support them at camp.



This year's 10 Tech Trek campers will be attending either Camp Franklin at Sonoma State University in June or Camp Carson at UC Santa Cruz in July. All were chosen through a competitive application and interview process coordinated by Tech Trek Committee members. More information about Tech Trek can be found at <https://healdsburg-ca.aauw.net/stem>

Anna-Laura Jansma, Debbi Crapeau, Annabel Bentley, and Danielle Diaz

If you would like to take part in this life-changing experience for our rising 8th-grade girls, please volunteer to be a classroom monitor or to accompany the campers on a field trip. Most shifts are either one morning or one afternoon. You'll enjoy just being among this exceptionally bright and creative group of young women – and, who knows, you may learn something too! To sign up for a volunteer position, go to:

www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA9A92EA1FFCF8-56279859-class#/

We hope you enjoyed the last Grapevine edition before the summer break. The next issue will be published in September with an August 15 deadline. You will be notified separately on who to send your submissions to.

This is my last Grapevine edition as your Publisher. After two years, it is time to move forward. Thank you for your partnership in publishing each edition over the last couple of years.

Kim Brown

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.