

# The Grapevine

September 2025

Volume 41, Number 11

## President's Message

Welcome Back!!!

As many of you already know, we are celebrating AAUW Healdsburg's 50th Anniversary! Several founding members of the 1973 board joined us at our Fall Kickoff. A big thank you to the Planning Committee: **Ronnie Devitt, Tom Devitt, Linda Clark, Barbara Reid, Violet Nelson & Mary Newman.**



The 2025/26 Board of Directors held a retreat at **Julie Hanamura's** home in late July to work on developing goals for this year as well as approving budgets for both the Fund (501(c)(3)) and the Branch. We set funding raising goals of \$50,000 for the 50th year with 75% participation by our members. Julie is looking for more volunteers for the Fundraising Committee. Please contact her if you are interested.

Tax deductible donations to the Healdsburg AAUW Fund can be made via our website, <http://healdsburg-CA.aauw.net>, by mail to our P.O. Box (P.O. Box 1064, Healdsburg, CA 95448) and/or by Donor Directed Funds through your Financial Advisor.

Onward!

**Nancy Jane Andrews**

Healdsburg AAUW President



## Speaker Series

**AAUW's Monthly Speaker Series starts up again in October!**

**Save the date: Monday, October 13, 2025**



**Janelle Kellman**

Mayor of Sausalito, Environmental Attorney, Candidate for Lt. Gov. of CA

Educated at Yale, Oxford and Stanford, **Janelle Kellman**, a recognized climate risk and resilience expert, will discuss how effective action can be taken to address climate risk. Highlights from her career include:

- **Mayor of Sausalito 2022.** (Town Councilwoman. 2020-2024) Tackled critical state-wide issues, including climate risk, economic resilience, disaster preparedness, affordable housing, homelessness, and equity and inclusion.
- **President, League of Cities**, North Bay Division (Marin, Napa, **Sonoma**, and Solano Counties) 2024-2025.
- **Founder and CEO:** Center for Sea Rise Solutions (Nonprofit), Sausalito, CA 2021 – current.
- **Legal and Policy Counsel**, Pacific Gas and Electric Company 2008 – 2014: Developed legal and policy solutions of large scale renewable energy projects, including utility sized solar thermal, solar pv, and wind.

*“I’ve found that conversations around economic resilience, climate risk, and local solutions tend to spark great engagement, especially with groups that care deeply about their communities.” Janelle Kellman*

**Monday Oct. 13, from 11:30 to 1:30 pm** at Healdsburg’s Abel De Luna Community Center  
1557 Healdsburg Avenue. Bring your own brown bag lunch if you like. **The presentation begins at noon**, will be **-followed by a brief update re: AAUW chapter activities**

Please RSVP to Celeste Plaister at [celesteplaister@gmail.com](mailto:celesteplaister@gmail.com) so we have an idea of how many will be joining us.

**We encourage you to invite non-member guests!**

**Michelle Regan**, Speaker Series Chair

**Celeste Plaister**, Vice President



## Social Activities

### October Wine 'N' Dine!

Mark your calendars for **Friday Oct. 24**

Watch for our Email blast in a couple of weeks for your opportunity to host or sign up as guests for a fun-filled evening.

We hope to see you then.

**Charlene Luks and Yvonne Schell, Wine 'Dine' co-chairs**

### Great Decisions

Are you interested in joining a Great Decisions discussion group? The Great Decisions group that meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 10am to noon, is looking for new members.

What does the Great Decisions Group do? The group reads and discusses articles on global affairs and major foreign policy issues facing the United States.

The eight topics and initial reading material are provided by the Foreign Policy Association. For example, the 2025 topics included such topics as "America at a Global Crossroads," "The Evolution of U.S. Leadership in the Global Economy," and "The Future of NATO."

One of the things particularly enjoyable about these discussion groups is that the topic of the day often becomes a launching pad to broader discussions because members bring insights and differing opinions. It is a very safe space to share those opinions. There are 8 meetings a year.

If you are interested in joining the Tuesday group, or just want to learn more about Great Decisions, please contact me via email or text.

**Nancy Haiston**

[nhaiston@earthlink.net](mailto:nhaiston@earthlink.net)

707-849-1905



## Mission Based Programs

Mission Based Programs consist of committees that work to support our community, particularly in education for students in preschool through high school.

- **Future Prep and High School Career Events**

Future Prep is AAUW's volunteer program at Healdsburg High School to help students explore career choices and understand the pathway, education, and life skills necessary to attain that career. **Betsy Hafner** is the chair of this committee. If you are interested in helping, please contact her. Aside from Future Prep, AAUW members are asked to participate in a number of classroom activities, ranging from offering feedback on students' community service activities and as observers in the presentation of junior class internship projects. We are also asked to help at the Financial Literacy event called Bite of Reality put on by the Redwood Credit Union for the juniors at Healdsburg High School. This event usually happens in late spring. A call for volunteers to help at all of these events will go out through Constant Contact.

- **Reading Rocks**

Using teacher-provided materials, Reading Rocks is a program in which AAUW volunteers read one-on-one with first and second grade students to help these students improve their reading skills and build their confidence. Members volunteer at Healdsburg Elementary School where **Diane Burnley** is the committee chair and at Westside Elementary School where **Pat Bertapelle** is the committee chair. Last year the Reading Rocks Program started at Mattie Washburn in Windsor. More volunteers are needed at that school. If you have an hour a week to volunteer, the students and teachers would greatly appreciate your time. Please contact **Catherine Mock** at [ckmock54@gmail.com](mailto:ckmock54@gmail.com), the committee chair at Mattie Washburn, if you are interested in volunteering.

- **School Readiness**

School Readiness is a committee with the mission to assist in making sure that all children are ready for kindergarten and school success, both socially/emotionally and academically. We usually help fund the preschool fair. If you are interested in this topic and have ideas, please let **Barbara Epstein**, the chair for this committee, know.

- **Holiday School Supplies**

Each year we gather \$10 voluntary donations from our members in order to help our schools purchase supplies. We deliver a check to the Reading Rocks schools right before winter break to show our appreciation for all that they do for students in our community.

Looking forward to a great year with our Mission Based Programs.

**Catherine Mock and Cristi Cameron**, Directors of Mission Based Programs



## STEM Program: Record Year!

AAUW Healdsburg, you've made it happen! This year we sent **10 girls** to Tech Trek — our largest on-campus cohort yet — and welcomed more campers than ever into our Tech Trek Alum Group (TTAG).

Tech Trek camp ignites middle school girls' passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) at a pivotal age — just when that interest often fades. Our mission is simple yet powerful: **reverse that trend, build a supportive AAUW STEM community and help close the gender gap in STEM careers.**

A heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated Tech Trek Committee -- **Debbi Crapeau** and **Anna-Laura Jansma** (Co -Chairs), **Annabel Bentley** and **Danielle Diaz** -- fundraiser **Patty McHugh**, our generous donors (some supporting 2-3 campers), and our PSST grant for making this year extraordinary! We're delighted to welcome **Susan Yarvorsky** to the committee, bringing a valuable skill of Spanish fluency. (See **Danielle's** article below for more Tech Trek details.)

Our STEM Program commitment doesn't stop when camp ends. Launched in 2023 to keep the Tech Trek spark alive, our branch formed our **Tech Trek Alum Group (TTAG)**. Under the guidance of **Karla Rosen** and **Diane Meyers**, TTAG has grown into a vibrant AAUW STEM community of **30+ high schoolers**. This year, we proudly celebrate our two graduating TTAG officers:

- **Rebecca P.** — First-generation college student heading to U.C. Davis to study engineering.
- **Joie K.** — New Cadet at the prestigious United States Air Force Academy.

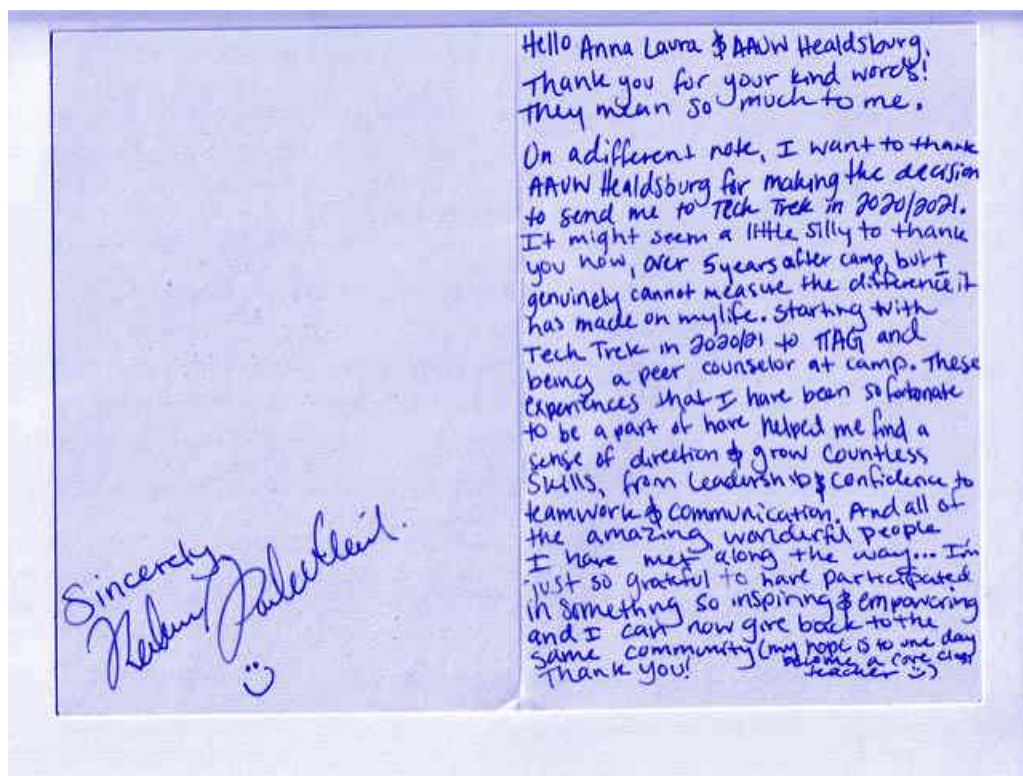
You can read about TTAG's most recent events in **Karla's** and **Diane's** articles below.

Our STEM Program is growing, we deeply appreciate your support. We'd love for you to be a part of it -- whether by assisting with an event, connecting us with inspiring STEM role models, introducing us to potential donors for a Service Award, or teaching a valuable life skill, there can be a place for you in this important work.

Thank you for visiting our STEM Program tables at the **August Kickoff!** We hope you'll join us on **October 8** for our Fall Panel in which this year's Trekkers will share camp highlights (details in **Danielle's** article below).

Here's to another year of **empowering girls and building futures in STEM!**

**Anna-Laura Jansma**  
STEM Program Director





## Tech Trek 2025

With the help of generous donors, numerous volunteers, middle school teachers, the Tech Trek committee and countless others, AAUW Healdsburg was able to fund ten local middle school girls' participation in our week-long Tech Trek STEM camp.



This year our two locations were Camp Franklin at Sonoma State University and Camp Carson at UC Santa Cruz, each hosting 80-100 rising 8th grade girls from across the state in residence halls and dining commons. Tech “Trekks” participated in classes and workshops designed to further their interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as well as boost their confidence, their team-building skills and help them bond with other like-minded peers.

Of the ten campers chosen by our Tech Trek committee, six attended Camp Franklin. Each participated in a different core class such as “How to Catch a Criminal (Forensics)” and “Tremendous Trees (Botany).” Workshops included topics like robotics, math escape rooms and even self defense. **Mary Barsony** along with two former Tech Trek attendees and now TTAGers, **Susana L.** and **Rebecca P.**, taught an astronomy workshop. Campers also had the opportunity to test water of the Russian River while attending a field trip to the Sonoma Water Agency Education Center.

Camp Carson had a similar arrangement of core classes and workshops. The four students who attended this camp participated in workshops such as “Codebreaking” and “STEM in Aviation.” Each camp had a Professional Women’s Night in which campers heard from various women about their careers and experiences in STEM fields.

These camps were made possible with the assistance of many volunteers who served as dorm monitors, room monitors and workshop assistants. Please thank this year’s volunteers: **Kim Alexander, Mary Barsony, Carol Clurman, Nancy Haiston, Anna-Laura Jansma, Liz Loebel, Leslie Moreland, Karla Rosen, Laura TredInnick and Wendy Bertalon.**

Would you like to hear about the impact of Tech Trek on this year’s attendees? We encourage you to join us at the fall panel on Wednesday, October 8, at 6 pm in the Healdsburg Library.

If you would like more information about Tech Trek, please visit:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/tech-trek/>

Or contact **Debbi Crapeau** <dcapeau@gmail.com>



Valeria V-G., Kenna S., Karla S-R. & Riley R.  
(Camp Carson Tech Trekkers 2025)  
with Wendy Bartalon, Dorm Monitor.



Sophia G, Scarlett J., Xiomara J.,  
Evelyn G., Mia B., Sofia B., (Camp Franklin  
Tech Trekkers 2025) with Rebecca P.  
(TTAGer & Robotic Coding Workshop Teaching Assistant)



Tech Trekkers water testing with Sonoma Water Agency Education  
Center on the Russian River.

### TTAG Brings the Power of Clean Energy to Healdsburg Day Campers

On July 25, the City of Healdsburg Community Services Department welcomed the Tech Trek Alum Group (TTAG) to share their North Bay Discovery Science Fair Piezoelectric Exhibit with Healdsburg’s Day Campers. The Abel De Luna Community Center buzzed with excitement as TTAG’s teenage role models sparked curiosity in about 60 campers, ages 5 to 11, by turning complex science into kid-friendly lessons. They engaged the children with questions and guided them through hands-on displays the TTAGers had built themselves.

Campers eagerly experimented with the technology, learning how piezoelectricity can generate electricity in a fun, interactive way. In the process, TTAG showed the next generation that this innovative energy source isn’t just science—it’s a real-world tool for building a cleaner future.

#### Karla Rosen

AAUW Healdsburg TTAG Co-Chair



## Carnival Connections: Welcoming New Tech Trek Alums to TTAG

Each year, Tech Trek graduates are invited to continue their STEM-focused journey by joining the Tech Trek Alum Group (TTAG). On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the TTAG Board organized a welcoming event designed to immerse these new recruits and our existing members in a fun-filled, game-oriented carnival experience. With circus tunes playing in the background, the girls mixed with other members and played interactive games in continuously shuffling teams, trying their luck at Loteria, Pictionary, Cornhole, Ring Toss, and Jeopardy. Their successes were rewarded with raffle tickets and for a few lucky girls, prizes consisting of some great Tech Trek/TTAG/STEM swag. By the end of the event, everyone enjoyed a dress-up Photo Booth experience allowing each member to express her personal “clown-attire fashion statement”! The event ended with a Q&A session where TTAG board members shared with the group their experiences and the benefits of participating in TTAG. The board members were delighted with the enthusiastic response to this recruitment activity, for all 7 Tech Trek graduates in attendance signed up for TTAG.

### Diane Meyers

AAUW Healdsburg TTAG Co-Chair



## Membership

### Fay Mark

Fay and her husband moved to Healdsburg from Sausalito in 2021. She joined AAUW recently to meet new people, become involved, and join the Friday hiking group.

In Sausalito she became a Master Gardener, served a two year term on the Marin Master gardeners board, and helped found Sausalito Beautiful, a 501(3) (c) nonprofit focused on community beautification. She held roles as communications chair and interim president, developed and lead fire smart landscaping programs for Marin residents, and wrote gardening columns for the Marin Independent Journal and the Press Democrat.

Before that Fay enjoyed a 20 year career with Silicon Valley technology companies, leading global teams





to deliver strategic product, e-commerce and product marketing websites. She also volunteered with the International Executive Service Corp. in Egypt and Jordan, and mentored San Jose high school students toward higher education.

A passionate sailor, she and her husband spent five years traveling from the coast of Maine to the West Coast via the Panama Canal. In 2018 her husband became a certified private pilot and together they began volunteering with Pilots and Paws and Canine Companions, flying dogs in need to new homes. Their flights have taken them across the US, Canada and Mexico for the past six years.

Though her two daughters live in other states, Fay treasures visits with them and with her three year-old granddaughter, who brings her endless joy.



### **Vicki Carlin**

Vicki and her husband made Healdsburg their home 12 years ago after three and a half decades in San Francisco. During that time, she enjoyed a rewarding career in commercial real estate, working as a construction manager, leasing agent and property manager.

Vicki joined AAUW because of her passion for tutoring kids and she immediately signed up for AAUW's "Reading Rocks" program for young children at Healdsburg Elementary School.

When she is not busy tending their ranch in Alexander Valley, and caring for their two dogs, Vicki enjoys reading and playing pickleball. She also supports causes that advance information and funds research for Parkinson's disease.

One of her greatest joys is traveling to Seattle to see her daughter and dote on her nine-month-old grandson, who lights up her life.



### **Sarah Senestraro**

Sarah is excited to join AAUW, an organization she admires for championing the advancement of girls and women—through educational support as well as advocacy for equity at the legislative level. Having moved to the area less than a year ago, she also saw AAUW as a wonderful opportunity to connect with new people. Since joining, she has found her calendar happily full and her expectations exceeded.

Her educational journey began at Oregon State University, where she majored in liberal studies—a field she describes as “a degree in diversity, equity, and inclusion before those terms were mainstream.”

Although she initially intended to become a teacher, her career path took other directions. She worked in banking, then transitioned into the healthcare sector (non-clinical), where she discovered her passion. This led her to pursue a master's degree in health administration and to earn a Black Belt certification in Lean Six Sigma.

Today, Sarah serves as a research project coordinator with Providence's clinical trials team at the cancer treatment center. She finds her work deeply fulfilling because of its impact and its potential to improve lives. She hopes that all women will have the opportunity to find careers where they feel both purpose and passion. If asked what advice she would share with young girls, she says: "Following dreams is important, but without hard work, discipline, and clear goals, they remain only dreams. No matter where you begin, it is possible to achieve what you want—if you're willing to put in the work."



## Scholarship Success Stories:

### Joelle Canto Adams 's Story

#### 2019 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship

Back in 2019, as I was set to graduate from Windsor High School, I didn't know what I wanted to do when I "grow up," even though I was confidently applying to colleges to become a marine biologist. What I did know at the time was that I couldn't afford college on my own, and many student loan repayment programs could be predatory.

I was so lucky to be surrounded throughout most of my upbringing by smart, educated women who actively encouraged me to pursue learning and follow whatever paths sparked my passion, ultimately leading me to university. They pushed me not to feel discouraged by obstacles—albeit a significant financial one—but to find a solution, something women have been doing for eons, recognized or not.

My solution was to apply to as many local, state, and national scholarships that I could find over my senior year. One such local scholarship was your Healdsburg AAUW branch, which was incredibly supportive and encouraging throughout the application and interview process.

You helped me focus on the opportunities ahead rather than the challenges I knew I would face—bringing levity and excitement to a potentially intimidating new chapter of my life.



News flash: marine biology didn't work out. Instead, along my college journey, I discovered botany! Much like our ancestors, I transitioned from sea to land, diving into botanical taxonomy and restoration science courses. Due to attending college during the pandemic, many of my field classes lacked the "field" part, so I had to seek hands-on experience elsewhere.

I landed a job with a campus-based restoration group, where I saw lessons on soil chemistry and interspecies competition come alive in the field. Thanks to support from my AAUW scholarship, I was able to save a portion of my salary while gaining meaningful, actionable experience for future jobs. That modest saving helped me build solid financial habits, which eventually enabled me to buy a car after college.

After graduating, I returned to the familiar routine of submitting applications—this time, for jobs. With a positive outlook, grounded in a phrase one of the wonderful women shared during my AAUW scholarship interview in 2019—and one I carry with me to this day—"that opportunities will arrive for those who search for them," I sent out application after application for months.

Well, one great opportunity did arrive: I became a field botanist in Northern California. I had to learn all the plants of this area—so different from, yet similar to, Southern California—and the challenge gave me a fresh reason to explore the Bay Area hiking trails.

Nowadays, you can find me on a boat inspecting mud banks for Mason's lilaeopsis or bushwhacking through the Sierras in search of a rare *Lewisia* (pictured). I'm grateful to have thrived in college and to be truly enjoying my early career.

I thank the Healdsburg AAUW for taking a chance on me and helping set me up for success. I implore you to continue your support and encouragement of young women and girls like me—especially at a time when both women and education face increasing challenges.



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) Phone: 607-342-7658.

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