

The Grapevine

November 2025

Volume 42, Number 3

President's Message

Greetings!

I am still feeling the rush from participating in the No Kings event In Healdsburg!!!

Obviously, when you read this November will be upon us. **Julie Hanamura** and her fundraising team are hard at work organizing fun events that will support our scholarship program.

The AAUW Board is developing a draft position description for an Outreach Director.

Summary: The Outreach Director strengthens AAUW's presence and influence in the local and regional community by building strategic relationships with organizations aligned with AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls. This role ensures AAUW is viewed as a collaborative partner, identifies opportunities for joint initiatives, and leverages external best practices to enhance branch programming, visibility, and impact.

If you are interested in serving as Outreach Director and have questions about this new board position please contact me!

Onward!

Nancy Jane Andrews

Healdsburg AAUW President



Speaker Series

AAUW November Speaker Series: Spotlight on Indigenous Art and Culture

Join us for an inspiring event featuring Sherrie Smith Ferri, PhD

The AAUW November Speaker Series is proud to present an extraordinary program celebrating art, history, and the vibrant cultures of Indigenous America. This month, we welcome renowned anthropologist and museum curator Dr. Sherrie Smith Ferri for a special presentation you won't want to miss!

About Sherrie Smith Ferri: Heritage and Achievements

Dr. Smith Ferri brings a wealth of expertise and passion to her work as a distinguished member of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians. Her career spans decades of research, curation, and advocacy, with a special focus on Pomo basketry and indigenous history. As a curator for the DeYoung Museum's Arts of Indigenous America Galleries, Dr. Smith Ferri's efforts have shed light on the artistry and traditions of Native communities. Her forthcoming book promises to further enrich our understanding of Pomo heritage and the enduring significance of Indigenous art.



Sherrie Smith-Ferri, PhD (center) with indigenous scholars updating display of Native objects at the DeYoung Museum

DeYoung Museum Update: Reopening Indigenous America Galleries

This fall marks an exciting chapter for the DeYoung Museum as it celebrates the reopening of its Arts of Indigenous America Galleries. Dr. Smith Ferri, along with a team of indigenous scholars and curators, have updated the galleries to better represent and honor the diverse cultures, stories, and creativity of Indigenous peoples. Visitors can now experience the revitalized collection along with stunning works from living artists and engaging narratives that highlight both history and contemporary perspectives.

Event Details

- Date: **Monday, November 10th**
- Time: **11:30 am – 1:00 pm** (presentation begins at noon)
- Location: **Abel De Luna Community Center**, 1557 Healdsburg Avenue, Healdsburg

Bring your own brown bag lunch if you like. Following Dr. Smith Ferri's presentation, we'll share the latest AAUW chapter updates. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate together.

RSVP: Please let us know you're coming by contacting **Celeste Plaister** at celesteplaister@gmail.com.

Non-member guests are warmly invited—bring a friend and share the inspiration!



Our California (CA) AAUW Public Policy Committee is Working Hard to Support our Mission!



Learn about the many California legislative bills that AAUW is sponsoring, and/or supporting, on the CA AAUW web page:

CA AAUW 2025 Legislative Agenda and Bill Tracking Report

docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1anxXv9ZtxC9tHxdFHen-FPIPXKuVOiOCqpv_uasJMkY/edit?gid=0#gid=0

Don't forget to vote on Nov. 4th. AAUW supports a **Yes** vote on Proposition 50 (aauw-ca.org/public-policy).

Celeste Plaister

Vice President Healdsburg AAUW



Holiday Gifts for Teachers

It is time for our annual Holiday Gifts for Teachers program! We are hoping that members will choose to donate \$20 to help teachers purchase school supplies that they need. Checks will be delivered to the elementary schools in Healdsburg Unified as well as West Side and Mattie Washburn in Windsor.

There are two ways to donate:

- Bring \$20 (or more if you wish) to the Holiday Party
- Send a check by **December 14th** made out to AAUW Healdsburg and indicating that it is for Holiday Gifts for Teachers. Checks should be sent to:

AAUW Healdsburg
PO Box 1064
Healdsburg, CA 95448

The ability to purchase school supplies has been so helpful to school staff and very much appreciated. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Barbara Epstein

Holiday Gifts to Teachers Coordinator



Mission Based Programs

Tech Trek Fall Panel 2025

The Tech Trek committee celebrated another successful year of supporting students in STEM during the annual fall panel at the Healdsburg Library on October 8th. The event served as an opportunity to hear about all of the joys, challenges and discoveries made during Tech Trek from all ten campers who attended. Their audience of over 50 included teachers, family members, branch members, and those who made the camp possible: the amazing donors.

This year's panel participants included **Mia B., Sophie G., Karla S., Evelyn G., Valeria V., Scarlett J., Riley R., Sofia B., Kenna S. and Xiomara J.** The campers were joined by Tech Trek Alumni Group (TTAG) members: **Saily M., Susana L., Bryanna C. S. and Valeria R.** who facilitated the panel with committee member **Danielle Diaz.** The TTAGers asked twelve questions regarding camper's growth during the Tech Trek experience.

Each panel participant provided enthusiastic responses that reflected just how impactful it was to be nominated, to apply, to interview and then to finally attend either the Sonoma State or UC Santa Cruz Tech

Trek camp. They answered questions such as: “How did you feel when you first arrived at the dorms versus when you left on the last day?”, “Did you learn/discover anything new about yourself or develop any new motivations or goals at Tech Trek, if so what?”, and “How did your way of thinking about women in STEM change after Tech Trek?”

The selection process for Tech Trek 2026 will be underway soon. Please join us for the panel next year!



From left to right: Karla S., Valeria V., Xiomara J., Evelyn G., Mia B., Kenna S., Riley R., Sofia B., Scarlett J., Sophie G. Front Row: Saily M., Susana L., Valeria R. and Bryanna C.



Panelists answering questions

Submitted by **Danielle Diaz**

Be Some-Buddy!

Tech Trek Alum Group (TTAG)

Launched for the first time, Tech Trek Alum Group's **Buddy Program** is welcoming its newest members, the graduates of this year's Tech Trek STEM Camp, with a very personal approach.

Each Tech Trek 2025 graduate will be paired with a TTAG board member who will serve as a personal liaison—helping this new member feel comfortable, excited, and connected as she becomes part of TTAG. By reaching out with texts and phone calls and continuing with in-person conversations, TTAG buddies are beginning to build meaningful, individual connections. Since the TTAG program supports girls from 8th through 12th grade, these buddy relationships can foster lasting friendships and deepen new members' involvement in our community.

We look forward to watching these “budding” buddy friendships grow!

Diane Meyers

AAUW Healdsburg TTAG Advisor and Co-Chair

Reading Rocks: Volunteer Needed

Reading Rocks will begin at West Side School in mid October. We need one more volunteer on Tuesdays to fill our schedule.

For one hour in the morning AAUW volunteers work with first graders to give them one-on-one attention as they learn and practice their reading skills. These little kiddos are so enthusiastic to show off their capabilities, and the teacher is so grateful for the help and encouragement we give them. If you are interested in joining our little group, let me know. Volunteers must be fingerprinted, show proof of a negative TB test, and receive volunteer training from the Principal.

Submitted by **Pat Bertapelle** patbert1160@gmail.com

Scholarships

2025 Santa Rosa Junior College Scholarships

“Our efforts are making a difference”

As a part of our mission to encourage and support higher education for women, the Healdsburg AAUW awarded \$32,000 in scholarships in 2025 to eight highly deserving women who will graduate from Santa Rosa Junior College and pursue their degrees at a four-year college/university. These awards bring the total amount in scholarship awards to SRJC students to \$399,000 since 1995.



This year's applicants were carefully screened via Awardspring, an online scholarship and donor management platform that was introduced to SRJC in 2019. Each finalist was then interviewed by our committee via Zoom. This year's scholarship committee included **Ann Elston, Betsy Hafner, Patty McHugh, Mary Newman and Co-Chairs Maureen Keefe and Jane Martin**

Each year our committee is so inspired by the motivation and drive of our scholarship recipients. Their determination to overcome obstacles and pursue their educational and career goals is impressive. Many of our 2025 recipients not only plan to get their Bachelor's Degree, but also plan to get a Masters and/or PhD! The schools they have chosen are UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and Sonoma State University.

Here is a brief look into the goals and aspirations of our 2025 recipients: Anastacia – UX Designer, Brianna – College Administrator, Kelsea – Organic Chemist, Samantha – College Mathematics Professor, Ailinn – Community Entrepreneur, Katie – Elementary School Teacher/Art Teacher, Nastasia – Public Relations or Digital Marketer, and Abigail – Actress/Filmmaker.

Our deserving recipients have not only worked hard to better their own lives, but they are focused on making a difference in the lives of others. Our 2025 recipients volunteer in many organizations in their communities in addition to working, caring for their families and keeping up with their studies. Congratulations to all of our 2025 scholarship recipients.

Maureen Keefe and Jane Martin

Committee Co-Chairmen

High School Scholarships

Last spring, we selected an outstanding group of young women from Healdsburg, Windsor, and Cloverdale High Schools as our 2025 scholarship recipients. This fall, I received their enrollment verifications and heartfelt thank-you notes. The students are now attending a variety of universities, including UC Davis, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and Sonoma State. Each expressed deep gratitude for your generosity and support in helping them manage the significant expense of a four-year college education.

Each year, reading the thank-you notes from our scholarship recipients is truly inspiring. Their words remind us how much your generosity means. Here's one note that captures the heartfelt appreciation shared by all of this year's students:

Dear AAUW Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity. I am so grateful to be supported by you to further my education at Sonoma State University. As a first generation Latina woman in STEM, I have the opportunity and privilege to study to get a Bachelors Degree in nursing. I know it is going to be difficult but I know it is possible because I have support like yours.

Messages like this one beautifully reflect the heart of AAUW's mission—to advance equity and open doors of opportunity for women and girls through education. Your continued generosity makes it possible for these remarkable young women to pursue their dreams with confidence and purpose. Together, we're helping shape a future where every student has the chance to thrive.

Beth Wolk

High School Scholarship Chair



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, 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 Carrie Paulik cap53t@gmail.com

