

The Grapevine

January 2026

Volume 42, Number 5

President's Message

Happy New Year!

Well, we survived and thrived through another wonderful and perhaps chaotic holiday season.

Now we turn to focus on fulfilling our goals. Our goal to raise \$50,000 for our 50th anniversary in support of scholarships continues. A big thank you to those who have already donated. Soon we will be able to report total dollars raised along with % participation.

The Nominating Committee is beginning to pull together a list of potential Board Members for 2026-27. Please contact me or **Celeste Plaister**, Vice President, if you would be interested in serving on the board. It's fun and a great way to learn more about our Mission Based efforts as well as State and National programs.

Onward!

Nancy Jane Andrews
Healdsburg AAUW President



Speaker Series

Join Us for the January 12th AAUW Speaker Series!

The Russian River is our region's most vital natural resource. Russian River Keeper, a local non-profit, protects and restores our watershed environment for the benefit of current and future generations.

Don McEnhill, Deputy Director, Russian River Keeper

This past April California Senate leader, Mike McGuire, recognized and honored our speaker Don McEnhill on the Senate floor saying:



"Don McEnhill is one-of-a-kind. He has dedicated his life to protecting the Russian River, which is the source of life for the North Bay and one of our most precious natural resources. Thanks to his tenacious leadership, his ability to build bridges between communities, and downright grit, we can honestly say the Russian River is healthier now than it was 25 years ago"

Don will be joined by Ariel Majorana, Russian River Keeper's Community Engagement Manager. Before joining the organization in 2020, Ariel worked in science education and youth development for 10 years. She has a masters degree in education with a focus on equity and social justice.

Why Attend?

- Hear how our inspirational speakers became activists and advocates for our Russian River.
- Learn how they motivated over 800 volunteers to clean up the river's shores last year.
- Hear about their many achievements, including how they helped save over 340 million gallons of water.
- Hear the future plans of this important organization and their recreational ideas.

Event Details

- Date: Monday, January 12th
- 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 wish
- Stay after the talk for updates on AAUW's latest chapter happenings!

RSVP and Invitation

We'd love to see you there! Please RSVP by contacting **Celeste Plaister** at celesteplaister@gmail.com.

Non-member guests are invited. Bring friends, share the inspiration, and join in the conversation about the future of caring for our beautiful Russian River!

Michelle Regan

Healdsburg AAUW Speaker Series Chair



AAUW Public Policy Update

Time for New Year's Resolutions!

As a young woman, to help me make my New Year's resolutions, my parents would always ask me what my long term goals were. As we start the New Year, it's a great time to review our AAUW public policy goals:

California AAUW Public Policy Goals:

Economic Security for All Women

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society

Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles

By funding our chapter's scholarships, as well as volunteering our time to support our educational programs, we can help the coming generations achieve these goals.

To learn how to help CA AAUW public policy team's work toward these goals, via legislative and public policy advocacy, go to their web page at:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-priorities-2025-2027/>

Also don't forget to sign up for our National AAUW's "**2 minute activist**" program, which gives us quick easy ways to help support the enactment of national public policy supporting our goals.

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Happy New Year!!

Celeste Plaister

Vice President



Social Events

Wine 'N Dine February 6

Our 2026 Winter Wine 'N Dine event will be held on Friday, February 6. We are hoping you will be able to join in as either a host or a guest. Information regarding this event will be coming to you via email blast.

Wine 'N Dine get-togethers are a wonderful opportunity for our members (and spouses or partners) to share a meal, renew friendships, and make new ones. You will get to socialize and reconnect with other AAUW members in an intimate setting of 6-12 people. We encourage AAUW members – old and new, singles as well as couples – to join us. Consider bringing a friend who might enjoy becoming a new member!

For our Winter Wine 'N Dine each member/couple will be asked by their host to provide both a dish to share and a beverage of choice.

Charlene Luks and Yvonne Schell

Wine and Dine Committee Chairs

Winter Cultural Event

Hold Wednesday Jan 28th 10 - 1 pm for our winter cultural event at the Charles Schultz Museum. We have arranged a special tour called "Day in the Life of Charles Schultz". As we'll be celebrating the 75th anniversary of Peanuts, reliving a typical day in the life of Charles M Shultz will be extra special!

Our Museum orientation includes a history of Shultz's passion - the development of Redwood Empire Ice Arena (Snoopy's Home Ice), and details of Schulz's daily routine.

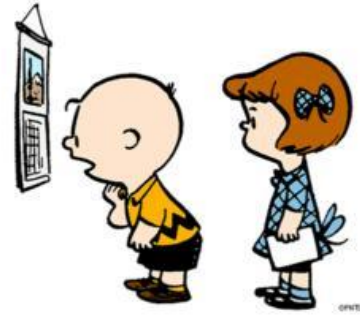
We will see where Schulz spent most of his workday—in his art and business studio—meticulously recreated in the Schulz Museum. Listen to Schulz's own words as he describes the importance of his daily routine. A trip around the campus caps off the tour.

Then, after the tour, our buffet lunch will be in a private room at the Warm Puppy Café.

Cost is \$55 for the tour and lunch. Please RSVP to **Liz Loebel** at lizloebel@gmail.com by Jan 10. You can mail me a check made out to **Liz Loebel**, 219 Ferrero Dr, Hbg or Venmo me at **Elizabeth Stott Loebel**.

Once we know who is coming, we will email you to arrange carpools.

Liz Loebel and **Judith Olney**, Co-Chairs AAUW Cultural Events



TTAG

Happy New Year, AAUW — Love, TTAG

Thank you for your incredible enthusiasm this past year!

A heartfelt thanks to the AAUW members who continue to support Tech Trek Alum Group (TTAG) with their time, talent, and generous donations. We look forward to a new year full of continued learning, collaboration and personal growth.

With appreciation,
The TTAG Student Board, TTAG Members and TTAG Advisors



TTAG Student Board, Advisors and Sponsors
at the Appreciation Luncheon, June 2025



Scholarships

Emma Airey's Story

2017 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship

I was honored to receive the Healdsburg AAUW Scholarship in 2017; it truly made a lasting difference in my educational and career journey. That support gave me not only financial assistance but also encouragement to pursue my goals, knowing that women like those at AAUW believed in my potential.

I completed my degree in Business Marketing at Point Loma Nazarene University in 2020, finishing early thanks in part to the scholarship. During my time at PLNU, I also had the incredible opportunity to study International Business abroad in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Living and learning in a new country was a transformative experience; it challenged me to adapt, communicate across cultures, and approach business from a global perspective. Those experiences shaped how I approach marketing today, with creativity, curiosity, and a deeper understanding of the world around me.

Before graduating, I secured my first role as an analyst at a marketing agency in San Diego, where I worked for two and a half years. There, I was able to apply what I learned in school in real-world settings, working on campaigns for multiple clients, refining my skills in digital strategy, content creation, and client communication. These early years were formative in building my professional confidence and learning how to navigate challenges in a fast-paced environment.



Currently, I work remotely at a digital marketing firm, where I've been for the past three years. I started as an analyst and was quickly promoted to Senior SEO Manager, overseeing key client accounts and leading strategic campaigns. Most recently, I added to my responsibilities by managing our internal department. In this role, I manage our department, mentor, and train team members, most of whom are women, helping them grow professionally and take on new challenges. Guiding and supporting colleagues in this way reminds me of the impact of the AAUW Scholarship, showing firsthand how investing in women's growth can create ripple effects in both education and careers.

Receiving the AAUW Scholarship allowed me to pursue unique opportunities, explore the world, and gain the skills necessary to launch a fulfilling career. I hope sharing my story encourages other young women to believe in their potential, follow their education with confidence, and seize opportunities to grow both personally and professionally. Scholarships like this don't just support students; they empower future leaders and innovators.



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.

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