

February 2026

Volume 42, Number 6

President's Message

Happy Valentine's Day on February 14th! I intend to treat myself to dark chocolate all month long.

As I write this (January 14, 2026) participation in the 2025/26 AAUW Scholarship Fundraiser rate is only 43%. A big, big, thank you to all the generous members and others who have already contributed!

However, it's still not too late to participate as we will be accepting donations through June, the end of the fiscal year. Last year our participation rate was 62%. Our goal this year is 75%. As you probably know donations to the Healdsburg AAUW Fund, a 501(c)(3), support Tech Trek Campers, High School Scholarships for young women from Cloverdale, Geyserville, Healdsburg & Windsor and Santa Rosa JC students moving on to four year institutions.

[Donate](#)

The Nominating Committee is working on filling a number of Board Positions including Secretary, Public Policy Director, Membership Co-chair, Vice President and Communications Director. There is also the opportunity to co-chair K-12th Grade Educational Programs (formerly Mission Based Programs).

Please contact Vice President **Celeste Plaster**, Chair of the Nominating Committee, if you have questions about serving on the Board. The Board meets monthly at 1:00 pm September-May on the second Monday at the Healdsburg Abel De Luna Community Center.

Onward!!!

Nancy Jane Andrews
Healdsburg AAUW President



Speaker Series

AAUW Speaker Series: FARMpreneurs

Featuring Dawnelise Rosen, Executive Director

Join us on February 9th for the AAUW Speaker Series featuring Dawnelise Rosen, Executive Director of FARMpreneurs.

About Dawnelise Rosen

Dawnelise Rosen leads the Healdsburg-based program FARMpreneurs, bringing over 20 years of experience building community for environmental and social justice through food. Rosen is a former co-owner of Healdsburg restaurants Campo Fina and Scopa, as well as co-founder of Corazon Healdsburg. Rosen is known as a leader in stakeholder relations, program management, and strategic innovation.



What is FARMpreneurs?

FARMpreneurs serves as a world-class graduate business school for small- to medium-size farmers across the country.

FARMpreneurs helps community-based farms thrive through entrepreneurial business education, including the week-long Strategic Sprint boot camp. Farmers build strategic plans, leadership skills, and collaborative networks to drive sustainable food systems. A project of the non-profit Ideagarden Institute, FARMpreneurs focuses on developing the next generation of small farmers into viable, profitable community-based businesses.

Why Attend?

- Discover how FARMpreneurs has been able to align their profitability training with sustainability and climate initiatives
- Hear Dawnelise Rosen's insights on building community and fostering environmental and social justice
- Learn about how FARMpreneurs partners with other organizations, including Corazon Healdsburg

Event Details

- Date: Monday, February 9, 2026
- Time: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (presentation begins at noon)
- Location: Abel De Luna Community Center, 1557 Healdsburg Avenue, Healdsburg
- Bring: Brown bag lunch (optional)
- Stay after for AAUW chapter updates!

RSVP & Invite

Please RSVP to **Celeste Plaister** at celesteplaister@gmail.com. Non-members welcome — bring friends and join the conversation!

Michelle Regan
Healdsburg AAUW Speaker Series Chair



AAUW Public Policy Update

AAUW Encourages Action

AAUW has been working since 1881 to create gender equity. AAUW provides us with a structure to come together to support each other and our communities, as well as to help change public policy at the national level.

As you look for ways to make a difference in 2026 check out our AAUW Action Network guide at:

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

Here you will find actions you can take by urging Congress to:

1. Ensure that the U.S. Department of Education can serve students.
2. Defend reproductive freedom.
3. Investigate and oppose Department of Justice civil rights rollback.
4. Oppose the SAVE act that could suppress voter access.

Celeste Plaister

Vice President



TTAG

Tech Trek Alum Group (TTAG) starts the New Year with “Who, What, Where, Why, and How?”

The power of asking a personal question that elicits an inspirational answer, is immeasurable! On January 11th, 16 TTAGers gathered to welcome the New Year by asking two accomplished young women all about their school, work and life experiences in the STEM world. Melanie de Luna, a former Tech Trekker and pre-med student at San Francisco State University, and River Li Way, a data scientist working at a San Francisco start up, were the focus of the girls' attention and these guests did not disappoint.



As young women involved in STEM-related fields, these two speakers shared candid comments about the challenges and successes they have encountered as first generation students pursuing careers in which women are traditionally underrepresented. This kind of honest discussion with those who have “gone before” was immensely meaningful to the TTAGers.

This kind of impact is evident in the reactions the girls shared following the Q&A with the speakers. Here are a few of their comments:

“I felt inspired to follow my heart more, and to not let anybody discourage me.”

“I felt inspired to be even more ambitious and take every opportunity that presents itself to me. I also want to be an example for women/girls in STEM and keep my head high.”

“Be more courageous.”

“I was inspired in what challenges that they have overcome.”

Of course, every TTAG event must include some fun! So, before and after the speakers’ presentation and Q&A, the girls enjoyed a round of charades focused on their personal New Year’s resolutions and a game of Jeopardy with questions drawn from the speakers’ life stories. What a great way to start 2026!!



Introduction of our two guest speakers:
Melanie de Luna and River Li Way



The TTAG Student Board, TTAG members & guest speakers



TTAGers sharing their reactions to the guest speakers’ presentations



Scholarships

Scholarship Success Stories

Daisy Bravo Lagunas' Story

2020 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship



I graduated from Windsor High School in 2020 and went on to attend Sonoma State University, where I earned my bachelor's degree in Sociology with a minor in Psychology in May 2024. Thanks to the support of this scholarship, I was able to continue my education without having to pause or delay my goals due to financial obstacles. The assistance provided a foundation that allowed me to focus on my studies and pursue experiences that would prepare me for the next step in my journey.

During my time at Sonoma State, I discovered a deep passion for social work and advocating for children and families. I was able to gain hands-on experience working as a program coordinator at the Boys & Girls Club and as an instructional aide for the Windsor Unified School District. These opportunities not only strengthened my skills but also confirmed my desire to dedicate my career to supporting vulnerable populations, particularly children and families navigating the child welfare system.

Currently, I am a case manager for supervised visitations at the Child Parent Institute, a nonprofit organization that partners with Sonoma County Family, Youth & Children's Services. At the same time, I have already begun my studies in the Master of Social Work Distance Learning Program through California State University, Long Beach. Balancing graduate school and my professional role has been both challenging and rewarding, and I feel fortunate to be gaining practical experience that complements my academic learning. My ultimate goal is to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and serve as a voice for those whose experiences are often overlooked or misunderstood, especially within the Latinx community.

My path has not been without challenges. Growing up in a low-income household, my family often struggled to make ends meet. At one point, we lived in a small studio apartment and relied on CalFresh to get by. I also faced personal struggles with anxiety and depression, which at times made it difficult to balance school, work, and my own mental health. However, these experiences only fueled my determination to break barriers, challenge stigma, and continue advocating for mental health awareness and social justice.

This scholarship did more than relieve financial stress—it propelled me forward into opportunities that once felt out of reach. It gave me the confidence to push through obstacles and pursue graduate school, where I am now continuing to build the foundation for my career in social work. I am deeply grateful for the investment in my future.



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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