



HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 5

4 p.m.—7 p.m.

The Siegert's

13404 Flora Ranch Rd, Healdsburg

*Celebrate the holiday season
with good friends, great food, and holiday cheer!*

Our annual holiday party will be at Helle and Werner Siegert's home from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. and will be our traditional appetizer and dessert potluck. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring an appetizer; M-Z, please bring a dessert. Bring enough to serve at least twelve people. Wine and other beverages will be provided. Parking is limited; carpool, if possible.

Again this year we will be supporting the Healdsburg Shared Ministries Food Pantry and the local elementary schools. Details on how you can participate in this holiday giving are on page 2.

Please RSVP to Joyce Scramaglia, 433-8542.



Speaker Series

Start your new year by attending the January 4 Speaker Series. Our speaker will be Donna Best, personal stylist and wardrobe consultant. Her topic, **“Personal Style: Defining (and re-defining!) Begins in Your Closet,”** will be lighthearted and relevant to all.

Mark the date on your calendar and read more about Donna's presentation in the January *Grapevine*.

—Pat Swaney & Ronnie Devitt, Co-Chair

President's Message



Scholarship checks were presented in October to HEF for computers and music assistant, to PSST for operating funds, and to HEF for Career Choices to fund the Naviance software license. I

hope you saw the articles in the Healdsburg Tribune on October 21 and November 11. All these organizations were extremely grateful.

We have received thank you letters from Paula Wurlitzer, Secretary for HEF, Jan Rosenberg, Treasurer for PSST, Gina Fontana, President of HEF, and Carol Peterson, HHS Librarian, who is so

happy to have additional computers as they are in short supply now. We are very fortunate this year to have a bit more money to give away. The breakdown of our Scholarship and Grant Funds was in the October *Grapevine* as well as on the website.

Thanks to all of you who worked so hard on the 2010 Homes Tour to make this possible. I am sure 2011 will be even better.

Wishing you happy holidays and a safe and healthy new year, and hope to see you at the Holiday Party.

—Liz Loebel



AAUW Annual Holiday Giving



This holiday season our branch will support the Healdsburg elementary schools with school supplies, and the Healdsburg Shared Ministries Food Pantry with canned food. More families than ever before need food and the Food Pantry is struggling to meet their needs.



The elementary schools were very appreciative of our donations in past years. This year the teachers have requested the following:

- Ticonderoga #2 Pencils
- Eraser Caps
- Binder Paper
- Binder Divider Tabs
- Felt-Tip Pens—red and green
- Expo Dry-Erase Markers
- Hand Sanitizing Gel
- Crayola Crayons (16 or 24 pack)
- Crayola Colored Pencils
- Crayola Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Low-Odor Whiteboard Markers
- Erasers
- Ziploc Gallon Storage Bags
- Handi-Wipes
- Post-It Notes
- Stickers

As always, donations are optional. However, we'd love to have you bring as much as you can contribute to the holiday party, or drop off at Liz's before Dec. 8. Thank you so much for your support. AAUW does make a difference!

—Liz Loebel

Community Service: GEMS and Reading Rocks

Our Community Service programs are roaring ahead.
This month we have two programs to spotlight:

GEMS

Our GEMS members (Girls in Engineering, Math & Science) had a special treat at our November field trip when they visited the Sonoma County CSI Crime Lab. We learned the latest about forensic science, including the fact that DNA can now, in some cases, be extracted if something has just been breathed on!

Not only did the girls learn about how the lab works, they were challenged to see if they could match fingerprints (they aced that exercise!), took their own fingerprints, and even made tracks from shoes. Thanks to **Tami Wiener-Stout**, **Kelly Meier** (mother of one of the GEMS girls), and **Judy Edmonds** for driving. I think we enjoyed the trip as much as the girls. This program is a great way to help cultivate our next generation of females in the fields of science and technology.

—Judy Edmonds



GEMS girls Angelica, Elizabeth, Jotera, Shaina, and Beatriz learn about fingerprinting at the Sonoma County CSI Crime Lab.

READING ROCKS

The generous volunteers of AAUW have, again, come forth to help at Healdsburg Elementary School. The Reading Rocks program has historically focused on the first grade classrooms, but this year there have also been requests from the kindergarten teachers, and we would love to help out.

I am pleased to report that three first grade classrooms are benefiting from our volunteers: **Ronnie Devitt**, **Jan Garwin**, **Shally Schultz** and **Suzanne Pfau**. One Spanish Immersion first grade class has help from **Ron Douglass**, **Judy's** husband. **Ronnie Devitt** is doing double duty by helping in one of the kindergarten classes as well.

Thank you all for the time and enthusiasm you contribute. The teachers have expressed how appreciative they are. Every morning spent with these young children gives them the special attention and encouragement that can lead to a successful educational experience. As we all know, education is the key to making a difference in a child's life and may enable her/him to make a difference in our world as well.

If anyone else could find the time for an hour one day a week, there are still two kindergarten classes and second Spanish Immersion first grade class that would be very grateful for help.

—Cynthia Iverson

2011 Historic Healdsburg Homes Tour

Have you marked your calendars?

Sunday May 15, 2011 is the Historic Healdsburg Homes Tour.

You won't want to miss it. You can attend and participate in a number of ways before and/or the day of the Tour.

It's our annual fundraiser, benefiting our scholarship program, our schools, our community projects. Plan on it and tell your friends.

—Louise Lambert

Member News

Kathy Birdsong writes, “I just returned from a month of painting in Paris and a week with family in Hungary. I rented a perfect apartment two blocks from the Louvre on a quiet one-way street right above the Christian Louboutin shoe boutique. Quite a place to be during Fashion Week! A friend from my Florence art school last summer joined me for two weeks and we saw and photographed and sketched all the great sites.

“When my friend left, I hunkered down to painting hours a day. I have hundred of photos yet to use as source material and eleven paintings pretty much completed. The strikes didn’t bother me much. I was at the Marmottan Museum in a residential neighborhood the day of the big mass rally downtown and rode the Metro, so I was underground while the masses were above me. There were some delays at the airport, but I missed most of the turmoil.

“In Hungary, I stayed with my father’s cousins who I had led around California five years ago. They showed me Budapest and drove south to Pecs where other family members live. In all, I met ten relatives I hadn’t known before and was touched by their warmth, creativity and intelligence. I have a great family!”

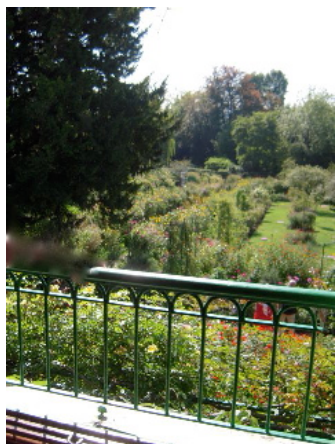
an air hostess for a charter airlines during this time and flew with many of the troops who went into Saigon. She landed at Saigon once but wasn’t allowed to get off the plane. At the exhibit there was a wall hanging by the Montagnard people that told the story of their flight from the mountains into S. Vietnam and their eventual welcoming by the American troops. Audrey owns one of these wall hangings and is very proud that the Petaluma Historical Society has added it to their exhibit.



Helaine Scholze sent the above photos and writes, “the **Friday Lunch Group** at Spoonbar was a delightful success. We all had a fun time visiting, eating, and being introduced to the manager and chef. Suzanne Pfau was the lucky winner of the gorgeous Mary Francis purse.

“Thanks to all of you who took the time to thank me and tell me what a good time they had. It was a pleasure to see everyone eating, talking, and enjoying being with friends in a lovely setting.

“Our next lunch will be sometime in February so watch for the announcement in the *January Grapevine*.”



View from Monet’s home in Giverny



Lunch in Montmartre

The Petaluma Historical Society is having an exhibit of artifacts from the Vietnam era that will last until the end of November. **Audrey Darby** was

Member News, continued

Liz Loebel and husband, Al, just returned from two weeks in Nepal and one week in Tibet. Liz writes: “The Himalayas were beyond fantastic with many 26,000 foot peaks to say nothing of Mt Everest at 29,000+ feet. We flew alongside the mountains in a small plane and then over them on the way to Tibet. We trekked in the Annapurna Sanctuary; river rafted on the Seti River and rode elephants in Chitwan National Park chasing a couple of rhinoceros. There are very few paved roads in Nepal, mostly bumpy, dirt roads. To get anywhere in a reasonable time, you have to fly.



“Tibet was quite interesting. We spent the week between 11,000 and 13,000 feet and crossed a 16,000 foot pass. The Chinese are in charge with many military troops stationed in Lhasa. The Potala Palace, the monastery where the Dalai Lama lived until he fled to India in 1959, is very impressive. We toured several other monasteries and temples. Our guide felt that the monasteries will become museums in the next 10 years as fewer and fewer Tibetans are able to become monks. It is somewhat difficult to get a visa to enter Tibet, and the Tibetans are not allowed to leave. The “roof of the world” was beautiful and sad at the same time. We had an adventuresome and educational trip.”

Correction: New member, **Lena Gardaya** prefers to go by the name “**Arlene.**” Please note this change in your directory and address book.

Bridge Club News

The Wednesday bridge players have joined the Monday group. The “new” or reconfigured group is now called Refresher Bridge and is meeting on Mondays at 2:30 p.m. at the Bean Affair. New members are welcome to join and can contact **Kay Mattei** at matteikay@yahoo.com for more information.



Additions and Changes to the 2010-2011 Membership Directory

Katy Rinehart kt.rinehart@gmail.com
Barbara Siegler barbara_siegler@sbcglobal.net
Estelle Watts wattsestelle193@gmail.com

Happy Hour

Almost 90 members, spouses, partners, and friends met at **Jan and Brent Stanley's** on a pleasant November evening to enjoy the latest *Happy Hour*.



Many of the party goers ventured outside around the fire pit to delight in the clear fall air or to relive a childhood pastime, making s'morers. These were not your usual s'mores, however. Jan's guilt-free version was low-fat marshmallows on low-fat graham crackers with **very dark chocolate**. YUMMY!



Hiking

Hiking on a beautiful November morning amid the gorgeous vineyards on Bailhache Ave.



The semi-annual birthday hike will be at Lake Sonoma on December 1. For details on this and other hikes, go to our website and click on Interest Groups, or the Calendar. You also can contact **Ann Mahoney**, at annmahoney@comcast.net.

From a 2010 Scholarship Recipient ...

(This is the second thank you letter from one of our scholarship recipients.)

Dear American Association University Women Healdsburg Chapter,

I would like to express my appreciation of your kindness by giving me a wonderful scholarship opportunity. I feel very privileged. I appreciate your confidence in me and willingness to contribute to my future education. Thank you so much for the help.

These past four years have been very challenging for me, but I expect the knowledge I have acquired to help me do the best to accomplish my career goal. Many times life problems have almost prevented me from accomplishing my goal; but I take my education seriously because I want to demonstrate a positive model for my children, support my family financially, and serve my community to assisting those in need.

I will use all scholarship money for future educationally related expenses. Also, I will work hard to do the best to accomplish my Bachelor Degree in Kinesiology-pre-physical therapy. Thanks for your kindness. Again, thank you for your generosity.

With sincere thanks,

Yiching Bell

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is a new discussion group that started this fall and meets once a month on the third Tuesday. We are using a student handbook put out by the Foreign Policy Association. The FPA is a non-profit organization “dedicated to inspiring the American public to learn more about the world. Founded in 1918, it serves as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding of, and providing informed opinions on global issues. Through its balanced, nonpartisan programs and publications, the FPA encourages citizens to participate in the foreign policy process.”

So far we have discussed “China Looks at the World: the World Looks at China,” “Europe’s ‘Far

East’: the Uncertain Frontier” and this month “The Global Financial Crisis and Its Effects.”

We each read the information in the booklet and any other recommended readings and then we come together to discuss the reading, adding any information we might have. We are not experts although some have some expertise and experience in some areas; but we have a desire to learn about this fascinating world in which we live and perhaps, in learning, help make it better somehow. At present we have room for a couple more people.

If you would like to join us, call or email me at 433-0706 or cspfau@sbcglobal.net.

—Suzanne Pfau

New Member Profiles

Kim Kopp

Did you know that Cazadero is the 2nd rainiest spot in California, with 80-85 inches annual rainfall? Kim Kopp and her husband Alex know that fact firsthand because after ten years of visiting their Cazadero home as a retreat from San Francisco, they have moved in permanently.

While Kim is a native Californian, her work has taken her from Michigan to Chicago and Manhattan. For the last 16 years she has worked in technology in the Bay Area, including a start up in San Francisco. Now happily retired, she is expanding her horizons by working as a “crush” intern in the wine industry and occasionally in a tasting room.

Her “kids” are two Labradors who enjoy hiking with her and cuddling on a rainy day while she indulges in her love of reading. Kim’s interest in AAUW was handed down from her mother and an aunt who were active members and supporters of the organization. Kim is looking forward to meeting new friends through AAUW, and with interests like hiking, reading, cooking, and wine, she should have no trouble finding like-minded women.

Violet Nelson

Ask Violet Nelson how she ended up in Healdsburg and the answer is quick in coming—weather and wine. Her career in Human Resources for Motorola, while based in Chicago, provided many opportunities for travel throughout the world and the United States. In 1996 she was sent to San Diego where her off-duty explorations of California led her to determine that someday she was going to live in the Golden State. The move was nine years in the planning but when she discovered Sonoma, she felt like she had found the right spot. When she did move she landed a full time job within a month. Violet has found the Healdsburg area to be an easy and friendly place for a newcomer to feel at home.

Having lived in Windsor five years, she now prefers to work part time as an event manager for such local

businesses as Relish Culinary School and Papapietro winery. This enables her to volunteer and to explore some of the many options AAUW has to offer.

While she has always loved to travel, Sonoma County has been such a delight she has found herself content to stick close to home. However, she is looking forward to a month long trip to Italy this coming spring. She and her three traveling companions are finding that organizing and planning their adventure is challenging, lots of fun, and something special to anticipate.

Carla King

Carla King may not be in town on a regular basis, but when she is, she is looking forward to making new friendships and participating in AAUW events. Carla and her husband, Benjamin, call Huntsville, Alabama home. Ten years ago they purchased a vineyard in the Russian River appellation. Since Benjamin has recently retired from his surgery practice they plan to be in the area more often. In the past, quick visits made it difficult to meet people so the instant friendships we offer are going to be especially appreciated.

Carla and her husband have two children and four grandchildren. Their son lives in Atlanta and their daughter in Memphis. Remaining close to their children and the fact that Carla describes themselves as “true Southerners” are reasons they won’t be in Healdsburg full time, although she admits they are finding themselves more “Californian” as the time goes by. They do love being here and it feels like it is home without the responsibilities-like a wonderful vacation. Carla reports that they are foodies, love good wine, bridge, painting, golf, and many other activities. They will be returning for a short visit in December to pick their olives and make oil! Hopefully they can make it to the Holiday Party so we will have an opportunity to meet them firsthand.

— Mary Ann Mayo

AAUW California Fellows' Luncheon Synopsis

The guest speaker at the recent AAUW CA Fellows' Luncheon was Gloria Blackwell, AAUW Director of Fellowship Grants and International Programs. She was a very easy-going but dynamic speaker who works closely with the National Girls Collaborative Program, STEM, and CARE as well as with the Fellowship Grants. She spoke about the changes in the emphasis on women's issues in the past few years and how some things are much better but some things seem to have gone backwards. AAUW is one of the few women's organizations that continually advocates for change. What motivates women to give, according to speaker Blackwell?

- Creativity
- Change
- Connection to a Cause
- Collaboration
- Commitment
- Celebration

AAUW has a blog that has interviews with recipients of various fellowships and grants. Check out aauw.org.

Some of the California Fellows, who are scholarship winners partially supported by our AAUW Funds branch donation of \$2000 and our individual donations, spoke to us about their areas of study.

American Fellows

Laura Lopez, UC Santa Cruz, Astrophysics graduate of MIT is now studying and writing her thesis on "Stellar Birth and Death." Her AAUW grant has given her the freedom to pursue four different areas with four different faculty advisors.

Susan Woolley, UC Berkeley, is pursuing a PhD in Education and writing her thesis on "Negotiating Gender and Sexuality in High School."

Selected Professions

Tam Ma, UC Berkeley, is a third-year law student studying and working for social justice programs. She worked for six years with state senator Sheila Kuehl and AAUW's Charlotte Newhardt. Her mother immigrated to the U.S. from Viet Nam and was very grateful for the many social safety net programs that helped her in this country. Tam would like to see these continue and she will work for that continuance.

International Fellow

Jhuma Sen, UC Berkeley, worked for Amnesty International and Women's Rights in India. She is now a law student and wishes to work in international law and human rights, particularly, studying law and dissent.

Career Development Grant Recipients

Nooshin Vassie, St. Mary's College, has a degree and has been working in architecture and is getting an MS in Education. She came from Iran thirty years ago and now wants to work with first generation immigrant women, mainly Latina, to help develop their English skills.

Wendy Walker, UC Berkeley, who has an undergraduate degree from Yale in Theater and has worked in that field for ten years, is getting an MBA with emphasis in Sustainable and Responsible Investing.

—Suzanne Pfau

The *Grapevine* is published online each month, except in July and August. Mailed subscriptions are available for \$20 per year. Please submit articles, announcements, and photographs by the 15th of the month for the following month to the *Grapevine* Editor, Sally Lyle, sallyle3232@sbcglobal.net.