

Cultural Event

The next event will be an “insider’s look” at the newly restored Palace of Fine Arts on February 10. For details, see page 3.



Interest Groups

Our branch has several interest groups, i.e. Bridge, Great Discussions, Book Group, Wise Walkers, Hiking, which are open to all members.

Most of these groups meet at the same regularly scheduled time each month. To obtain information about them, go to our website, www.healdsburgaauw.com and click on “Calendar” or “Interest Groups.”

February Speaker Series

Tuesday, February 1
 5:15p.m. Social, 5:45p.m. Speaker
 Healdsburg High School Library
 1024 Prince St. (at Powell)

Dr. Jeff Harding, Superintendent of the Healdsburg Unified School District

Following the social from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m., Dr. Jeff Harding will give us an overview of the state of the schools and the issues facing them.

Since many of you already have questions, it would be helpful if you would email them to Ronnie Devitt at vdevitt@comcast.net. She will organize the topics and send them to Dr. Harding in advance.

Although the meeting is not advertised to the public, we encourage you to bring others who may be interested.



Next month we will have a panel discussion featuring the GEMS and Tech Trek girls. Please note that it will be held on March 8, the second Tuesday of the month.

— Ronnie Devitt & Pat Swaney, Co-Chairs



President's Message

I am sitting in my office on a rainy Thursday afternoon trying to think of something to say. Since hearing of **Cathy Biggins'** passing, I am at a loss for words. I guess it is a time to reflect and appreciate every day living in such a beautiful area with such good friends.

Moving on ... The Career Choices program headed by **Leslie** and **Todd Everett** started, January 18. This program was very well received last year and continues to improve with student and teacher input. A HUGE thanks to the Everetts for their generous donation of many career books to the high school library. I really like the one titled *What Color is Your Parachute for Teens*. I know students and parents will benefit greatly from these resources.

I know several of you are still having trouble downloading the quarterly updated directory from the website. One easy way that has solved this for some is to click on the Adobe Reader button on the Membership page or the Newsletter page and download the latest Adobe reader. Give this a try and if it still doesn't work, let **Nancy Haiston** know so we can resolve this for everyone.

We have run into another hitch with our popular Food & Wine events. We don't have enough tables, chairs, plates, etc. to have two houses going on the same night. Having two events on different nights really doubles the work load. After a quick poll of the Board, we have decided to have Happy Hours for February, March, and April. As this is also a very popular event, attendance will have to be limited to the first 50 to respond. May is Homes Tour month and June is the installation lunch. The Board will discuss how to best proceed for the next fiscal year. **Joyce Scramaglia** and **Carol Novak** have done an outstanding job organizing these as evidenced by the popularity of our Food & Wine dinners and Happy Hours events.

On January 19, the School Board presented AAUW with a certificate of appreciation for our contributions to the students, staff, and parents of the Healdsburg Unified School District. We were recognized for Reading Rocks, Career Choices, Tech Trek, and GEMS programs, Naviance, and our donations to HEF. Accepting the award with me were **Sue Campbell, Ronnie Devitt, Judy Edmonds, Louise Lambert, and Tami Wiener-Stout.**

—Liz Loebel

Happy Hour



The response to the e-mail announcing the February 10 *Happy Hour* has been so great we have had to stop taking reservations.

Couples attending the *Happy Hour*, please bring a bottle of wine and appetizers for 20. Singles may choose to bring **either** a bottle of wine **or** appetizers for 20.

Note these directions to Ronie's house: Go north on Healdsburg Ave. pass Dry Creek Rd. about 1/2 mile. Turn right onto Paul Wittke Dr. After two blocks, Paul Wittke Dr. meets Rosewood Dr. The front of

her house, 1565 Rosewood Dr., faces Paul Wittke where there is plenty of parking. However, no parking is permitted on Rosewood.

Caution: One needs to be able to climb a number of stairs to her front door. If anyone prefers not to use the stairs, turn left onto Rosewood Dr. and park in her driveway, which is the first one on the left. Then walk to the right of the garage and enter her home via the back door.

As there is a waiting list for this event, please e-mail me at novak@sonic.net if you have to cancel your reservation.

—Carol Novak

2011 Historic Healdsburg Homes Tour

The Homes Tour preparations are in full swing and many people are getting all their ducks in a row to make this a successful event for us! **Katy Rinehart** and **Shannon Barton-Wren** are sending publicity to many different media announcing the Homes Tour. **Yvonne Hyatt** and her raffle committee are soliciting items to fill the five fabulous baskets of the Healdsburg Experience: overnight stays at our hotels/B&Bs, meals at our restaurants, and wines from our world-renowned wineries (see page 7). **Sally Lyle** is finalizing the flyers, posters, and tickets for mailing and publicity. Holly Hoods at the Healdsburg Museum has begun her



excellent research on the history of the seven featured homes for this year's Tour, secured by the Homes committee, **Charlene Luks** and **Pat Bertapelle**. Treasurer **Sue Campbell** is preparing all things financial and updating the mailing list. **Nancy Haiston** updates our website. Excellent work everyone! All others are waiting the right time for their efforts to begin.

I'm sure that May 15 will be a beautiful, sunny day (the power of positive thinking!) so tell all your friends to attend and make this a huge success!

—Louise Lambert

Cultural Events



On February 10, AAUW members and friends will enjoy an “insider look” at the newly restored Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco. We will meet at

Park ‘n Ride at 8:45 a.m. to form carpools.

This architectural masterpiece, designed by architect Bernard Maybeck, is the last monument of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition still located on its original site. Despite numerous efforts to preserve the Palace, the ravages of time, nature, and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake took their toll. In 2003, the Maybeck Foundation and the City of San Francisco created a public-private partnership to restore the Palace. The \$21 million historic preservation project has now been completed and fully funded.

Jan Berckefeldt, Executive Director of the Maybeck Foundation, will lead us on our tour providing fascinating details about the Palace’s history, Bernard Maybeck, and the trials and tribulations of executing a major historic preservation project.

Following the tour, we’ll have time to enjoy the ambiance of the Palace’s beautiful grounds before heading to Sausalito for lunch.

If you are planning to join us, please RSVP by February 4, to Mary Jane Corson at 433-7216 or mjcorson@hughes.net or to Yvonne Hyatt at 433-0197 or yehyatt@mac.com. There will be a limit of 20 people for the tour and a carpooling fee of \$10 each for the drivers. We also need to make reservations at the restaurant so let us know if you plan to join the group for lunch.

—Co-Chairs, Mary Jane Corson & Yvonne Hyatt

Member News

A shock to all was the announcement of the unexpected death of **Cathy Biggins** from a heart attack on Monday night, January 10.

Cathy was born in San Jose and attended the University of California, Berkeley. There she met and married John Biggins, her husband of 42 years. They spent many years in Rhode Island where Cathy taught and obtained a Master's Degree in higher education from Rhode Island College. Upon retirement they returned to Cloverdale where John died unexpectedly in 2004. She remained in the home they had built together, enjoying her many activities and particularly her two daughters and their families with whom she had just spent a wonderful Christmas holiday.

Aside from being a valued member of AAUW where she had held various chairmanships and was currently chair of the Scholarship Committee Cathy was also active in California Garden Clubs, Inc., the Cloverdale Historical Society, the Cloverdale Senior Center, and CARE. She loved the outdoors, hiking and was a killer bridge player.

A great gal and good friend to so many, she will be sorely missed.

—Connie Wren

Barbara Covello writes that they have put their home for up sale intending to move to an active adult community in Los Lunas NM (20 miles south of Albuquerque). She says, "It's a small town like Healdsburg; it seems like a close knit community. We will also be closer to our oldest daughter in Phoenix.

"If and when we move, we will miss everyone and welcome any of you who are traveling in that area."

At the January Speakers Series, Donna Best told of several locations where we could recycle items from our closet that we were no longer wearing. As a follow up, **Delores Conklin** would like everyone to know that the Assistance League of Sonoma County runs a Thrift Shop in Railroad Square in Santa Rosa, and that it gladly accepts good used clothing. The money raised there goes to support various services for children, battered and homeless women and their children, and housing for families during medical emergencies. Delores has been a volunteer at the Assistance League for many years. If you wish more information about donating items or the Assistance League, contact her at 433-4584.



Hikers on the Kortum Trail on a beautiful, sunny, winter day along the coast.



Members on the Cultural Event outing browsing in the outlet store at Heath Ceramics.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group still has room for more people. This is a study group that meets once a month at members' homes. At present we are meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. Material for discussion comes from the Foreign Policy Association and is written by experts in the fields of study. January's topic was *Rebuilding Haiti*. February's topic is *U.S. National Security*.

Santa Rosa AAUW has had a Great Decisions group for several years and it is one of its most popular interest groups. Schools and colleges use this material as do community groups. You can check out the website at www.greatdecisions.org.

For more information or to sign up call Suzanne Pfau 431-0706.

—Suzanne Pfau



Santa Rosa AAUW Author's Luncheon

Saturday, March 5 - 11:30 a.m.

at Legends,

Bennett Valley Golf Course

3328 Yulupa, Santa Rosa

Program features four authors and lunch for \$28

Paid reservations a must by February 24

Luncheon choice

Chinese chicken salad or vegetarian lasagna

**Mail check with lunch selection on memo line to
AAUW**

3805 Sedgemoore Dr.

Santa Rosa, 95404

This is joint program of the AAUW Santa Rosa and Healdsburg branches.

Our attendance will encourage their participation in our Homes Tour.

Please email charneluks@msn.com after you send in your

reservation so she knows who is going from our branch and

if you plan to carpool. Those who are carpooling

will meet at Park 'n Ride at 10:30 a.m.

Community Service

Tech Trek

Can you name the best week of your life? For me, the week I spent as a Tech Trek dorm mother at Stanford ranks among the top ten best weeks ever.

Every year our branch considers as candidates girls who are entering 8th grade from Cloverdale, Geyserville, Healdsburg and Windsor, and have been recommended by their science or math teachers. Following interviews we will send five or six girls to this astonishing science and technology camp where they can be exposed to math, biology, engineering, astronomy, oceanography, computer science, and so much more. They get to live with other girls their age from throughout Northern California. And they learn, in the words of one of the girls, that "It's OK to be smart!"

In the summer of 2010 **Tami Wiener-Stout** (her second stint) and **Sue Campbell** came from our branch to watch over the girls, be part of their dorm life experience, sit in on the classes if they wanted, and to have a great time being part of this experience that will help nurture tomorrow's scientists and leaders.

Three years ago I signed up mainly to see how the money we raised from our Homes Tour was being

spent. Once there I realized it was an incredible investment in the future. In fact, I enjoyed the experience so much I signed up the following year and loved it all over again.

Each dorm mother has 10 girls to shepherd (along with plenty of support). There is currently a need for more dorm mothers. The camp where "our" girls go (Camp Curie) will be held on July 10-16, and the following week is the second camp, also at Stanford, from July 17-23. In addition there is a third camp that will be held this year for the first time at UC Davis from June 26-July 2. Dorm mothers need to come one day ahead to get everything set up. While it is nice to see the girls that come from our branch, Geyserville to Windsor, all the girls are so happy and enthusiastic that helping out at any camp would be a tremendous experience.

I heartily encourage you to talk to Tami or Sue or me, and find out more about this life-changing experience. If you think you might be interested you can contact the state coordinator, Carol Holzgrafe at carol@holzgrafe.com, for complete information.

—Judy Edmonds

CAREER CHOICES

It seems that the main reason we enjoy our AAUW branch so much is the wonderful people who are members. Here we find interesting, generous, supportive like-minded friends.

Leslie and Todd have spent the last year meeting with teachers, administrators and school board members to help build the best Career Choices program possible for Healdsburg High School. They have expanded the program [originated by **Dee McGuffey** and **Judy Edmonds**] and set up ten panels, based on students' interests that will be beneficial to these students in helping to determine future professions.

Not being content with all that, Leslie and Todd have undertaken to make a very generous donation to the high school of several books that will help students explore various career options. While a personal donation, the Everetts have made this gift in the name of AAUW. There is a section now in the school library with a placard that tells students that these many books and online resources have been given to them by the Healdsburg branch of AAUW.

Leslie and Todd, thank you both for your innovation, hard work and generosity!

—Judy Edmonds



Community Service, continued

Volunteers Needed

This year the Expanding Your Horizons conference at our local level will be held at Santa Rosa Junior College on April 2 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Our chapter offers both generous financial support and "women hours." We are asking for a minimum of 10 volunteers to help staff the registration table from 7:30 to 9:15 a.m., to handle the distribution of morning snacks from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m., and to serve the lunch buffet from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. You may choose an all-conference commitment or serve a morning or mid-day shift. Carpools to the JC will be arranged.

The EYH network began in 1974 when a group of women scientists and educators shared their concerns about the low participation of females in math and science courses. To spark the interest of girls, conferences focusing on hands-on activities were begun for middle-school girls. An emphasis on math, science, technology, and engineering sought to broaden girls' horizons regarding their future career decisions.

Past volunteers have found this to be a worthwhile activity and a great chance to get to know some new faces in AAUW. Please check your April calendar and consider volunteering. You can contact **Margaret Johnson** at csy4j@yahoo.com or by phone, 838-4557.

—Margaret Johnson

A Request from the Raffle Committee

The raffle committee for the Historic Healdsburg Homes Tour is busy securing gift certificates for stays at local B & Bs and for dining at local restaurants.

If any of you have a contact with someone who owns or manages a B & B or a restaurant in town or in surrounding communities,

please contact me at yehyatt@mac.com or 433-0197.

You may be able to help us out.

—Yvonne Hyatt

Changes to the Board

Cathy Chiminello has accepted the position of the Scholarship chair. This position oversees the team who recommends the scholarship recipients and then administers them. This year that team is comprised of Tech Trek, **Tami Weiner-Stout**; SRJC Scholarships, **Joyce Scramaglia**; AAUW Funds, **Jan Garwin**; Expanding Your Horizons, **Margaret Johnson**; and the HEF donation.

Ronnie Devitt has accepted the position of Communications chair. She will wear two hats for the remainder of this fiscal year with her Speaker Series role. The Communications chair oversees the team who produce the Website, **Nancy Haiston**; the *Grapevine*, **Sally Lyle**; the Directory, **Laura Tredinnick**; Publicity, **Katy Rinehart**; and Corresponding Secretary, **Sheila Kneass**.

Thank you to Cathy and Ronnie for accepting these positions.

—Liz Loebel

New Member Profiles

Katy Rinehart

During her short time since moving to Healdsburg, Katy Rinehart already is bringing her experience, enthusiasm and warmth to many local endeavors. Following an AAUW Speakers meeting on Forgotten Felines of Sonoma County, she volunteered to feed the feral cats at several locations in Healdsburg and to work in the recovery room at the organization's weekly spay/neuter clinic. She also volunteers at the Healdsburg Museum and the Healdsburg Center for the Arts, and was recruited to coordinate publicity for the Historic Healdsburg Homes Tour. She hopes to draw on her background as a teacher and college counselor as part of the Support Team for the Career Choices program at Healdsburg High School.

Katy is used to being busy. While married and raising two children, she was the head of the English department and Director of College Guidance for 17 years at Moorestown Friends School, a Quaker school in Moorestown NJ. Where does she get so much energy? She attributes it to her love of distance running and biking. She has competed in many marathons.

Katy wanted a major life change and decided to move to this area and take a year off from working. She chose Healdsburg for its vibrant culture and natural beauty and for its proximity to her daughter, who lives in San Francisco and works as an editor for an online business news service. Within the year Katy hopes to find a position locally where she could again work with high school students. Any school or program would be lucky to have her.

Her dream for the summer is to bicycle from Rome to London, stopping en route in Barcelona, Spain, where her son teaches English at a language school. Did I mention that she is also adventuresome?

—Dee McGuffey

Ann Allan

Ann Allan loves books, a good trait for an individual who has spent her working life in libraries. Needless to say, she and husband Ron, who has a special interest in wine, discovered the Healdsburg wine library where Ann has volunteered—something she describes as a “busman’s holiday.”

Ann is looking forward to participating in a book club. She loves gardening and was happy to hear that many of our members are active in the local Garden Club. She especially enjoys arranging flowers. Ann is hopeful that other members will be interested in starting a biking group. Be sure and let her know if this is something you would enjoy as well.

While Ann and Ron intend to keep their family home on the East coast, for the last five years they rented a cottage next to the Jimtown Store. Their children live in the area, so making the move permanent seemed a natural choice. Daughter Kate owns and operates a clothing store, Arboretum, on Healdsburg Ave. They recently purchased a home on Fitch St. between two churches and are currently updating the 100-year-old kitchen. Ann describes her new home as a small cottage that is very different from their East Coast home.

Barbara Siegler

Many of you remember Barbara Siegler when she was in charge of membership in the late 90's. She currently lives in Petaluma but has rejoined the Healdsburg Branch.

While her visits with us may be limited, she hopes to renew friendships and make new friends at the Speaker Series and Food & Wine events.

Welcome back, Barbara.

New Member Profiles, continued

Cheryl Frechette

Cher, as she prefers being called, joined AAUW one week and found her calendar filled with AAUW activities the next! The Speaker Series and a special bridge day helped fill up her calendar and enabled her to meet many of our members.

One might deduce that “no moss grows under her feet.” You can be sure, however, that roses grow in her garden. Cher is a bona fide rose judge for the American Rose Society and a Consulting Rosarian which means she is designated an experienced rose grower who has met ARS qualifications to give complimentary advice on all aspects of rose culture. This year she is responsible for planning the Marin Rose Society programs.

Cher recently retired from her profession as an information technology consultant with such companies as Wells Fargo and Bio Financial Services. Her husband Paul’s decision to operate his consulting business from a home office enabled them to move to Healdsburg this November. She noted that having Paul work in the home requires a learning curve for them both.

They were familiar with Healdsburg having lived in Mill Valley. Cher, like many of our new members, found her way to AAUW through the members she met in the Garden Club.

— Mary Ann Mayo

Public Policy

Two excerpts of interest from AAUW Washington news January 7, 2011

America COMPETES Act Passes

President Obama signed the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act into law. This new law seeks to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education through greater coordination of federal agencies and improvements to existing programs, such as the [Noyce](#) teacher scholarship program.

AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, especially for girls and other underrepresented populations. See AAUW’s [report](#), *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, to learn more about the educational and social barriers that continue to block women’s participation in these fields.

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy Repealed

In the final days of the lame duck session, the Senate voted 65-31 to repeal the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy banning lesbian and gay Americans from openly serving in the nation’s armed forces. Repeal of the 17-year-old ban failed in the Senate just weeks prior when it was included as a rider in the defense authorization bill. However, standalone legislation co-sponsored by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) ultimately garnered the support to pass with a strong bipartisan majority.

AAUW [believes](#) that discrimination against any class of persons has no place in our country and has, for a long time, advocated the repeal of DADT.

—Suzanne Pfau

From a 2010 Scholarship Recipient ...

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

Dear American Association of University Women award donors:

I want to express my deepest appreciation for the trust you have given me by awarding me this scholarship. It was such an inspiration meeting with all of you in April. As you know, I am attending Sonoma State University next semester to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher. This scholarship will certainly ease the financial burden of the upcoming year. I am forever grateful for the generosity and support that you have shown to me and many other Santa Rosa Junior College students by contributing financially to our education.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Megan Waterman

Friday Lunch Group

This lunch group will meet again in March. No date has been set yet so look for information in our March *Grapevine* and on our AAUW website. Hope to see many of you there.

—Helaine Scholze

Additions to the Membership Directory

Cheryl Frechette: cherylfrechette@yahoo.com

Peggy McQuade: peggy.mcquade@gmail.com

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.