



The Grapevine

Healdsburg Branch

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, research
September 2011 www.healdsburgaauw.com Vol.27 No.1

SEPTEMBER KICK-OFF MEETING



Tuesday, September 13, 2011

5 to 7 p.m.

Pat Swaney's home

1315 West Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg

Let's start the year by sharing a glass of wine and nibbles with old friends, meeting new members, and enticing potential new members with reminders of all of the fantastic, worthwhile, and fun activities that our AAUW chapter has to offer.

Please invite anyone who you think would be a great addition to the group or who is "sitting on the fence" about joining.

We will be taking photos for the directory; please plan to get your photo taken if you have not yet done so.

If your last name begins with A through M, please bring an appetizer.

If it begins with N through Z, please bring a bottle of wine.

Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Carpooling to this event is strongly encouraged. We are looking for volunteer drivers, particularly if you have been to Pat Swaney's home previously. Carpools will form and leave from the Dollar Store (1041 Vine Street, Healdsburg) at 4:45 p.m. Please let Ronnie Devitt vdevitt@comcast.net know (1) if you would like a ride or (2) if you will drive, and who or how many people you can bring.

--Kim Kopp and Carol McKnight, Co-Chairs

2011-2012 AAUW Speaker Series

See page 3 to read about our Speaker Series which begins October 4 and continues on the first Tuesday of every month (except December), October through May.

President's Message

I am honored to serve as President of our branch of AAUW this year. It is the work of many, starting with a great Board and Leadership Team that makes our branch so successful and enjoyable. Word is out about what a fantastic group of women and man we have! Our recent growth to about 140 members prompts me to choose "Participation for Education" as a theme for the year.

Most of us joined AAUW for the wonderful opportunities to pursue interests and social activities with new friends, but we also share in AAUW's mission to promote education and equity for women. I hope that every one of you will get involved in at least one project to support our mission-based branch projects. You'll have fun in the process.



This year we are launching a new effort to fund our students going to Tech Trek camp by seeking grants from local science/technology corporations. (See the

article by Judy Edmonds on page 4). Judy will also be organizing a group providing the Career Choices panels at Healdsburg High School; and Shally Shultz

is coordinating the Reading Rocks volunteers at the elementary school. Contact them to get involved in these satisfying activities.

We need *everyone* to choose a way to help with our Historic Healdsburg Home Tour, chaired by Jan Stanley. This is the one event that raises the money for our Scholarship Fund. We are proud to be giving about \$27,000 worth of scholarships and grants this year!

One of our goals is to provide opportunities for every member. With our enhanced growth, many new interest groups have formed. The Social Committee is restructuring our social events to be sure there is access for all, with easier carpooling. This year the communications focus is on our website--www.healdsburgaauw.com—where events and the monthly calendar are posted, as well as ongoing activities in the Interest Groups section. Our Directory in the Membership section is updated quarterly to include our newest members. We hope to add a photo of each member this fall. You can print out these pages for easy use.

I thank the Board and the other members in our Leadership Team. You can see the complete list on the website. Contact any of these dynamic members with new ideas, questions, or to join a committee. We look forward to seeing you at the Kick-Off on September 13.

--Charlene Luks



Carpooling Is the Way to Go

This year we want to try a more structured approach to carpooling to our various events. There are lots of reasons for doing so: many members want to attend events but don't want to drive; there are more homes available if we assure hostesses that we will carpool and take parking into consideration; and it's better for the environment. Every event taking place beyond central Healdsburg will include a carpool meeting place and time. In addition to the RSVP, please respond to the Carpool Questionnaire so that we can be sure everyone has a ride and the hostess knows how many cars to expect. Thanks for your cooperation.

--The Social Events Committee

AAUW Healdsburg Board

2011-12

President	Charlene Luks
Vice President	Sue Campbell
Past President	Liz Loebel
Secretary	Sandy Beddow
Treasurer	Sue Campbell
Nat'l Issues/ Public Policy	Suzanne Pfau
Membership	Gail Wright
Speaker Series	Carol McKnight Kim Kopp
Communications	Ronnie Devitt
Fundraising/ Homes Tour	Jan Stanley
Scholarships	Cathy Chiminello
Community Services/ Programs	Pat Bertapelle



The new board received roses at the Installation Luncheon. From front row left to right: Charlene Luks, president, Ronnie Devitt, Gail Wright, Liz Loebel, Sandy Beddow, Jan Stanley, Suzanne Pfau, and Carol McKnight.

Go to "About Us" on our website page for the complete list of committee and interest group leaders.

2011-2012 SPEAKER SERIES

The Speaker Series is held on the first Tuesday of every month October through May, except December, in the Healdsburg High School Library. Social hour begins at 5:15 p.m., followed by a brief AAUW general meeting at 5:45, and culminating in the program itself at 6:00. Check the website or the newsletter for more details or time changes.

We are pleased to have this excellent group of speakers and topics lined up for the year:

October 4	Lisa Michaels	Researching/writing a historical novel about the Mathesons of Healdsburg
November 1	Dr. Shiroko Sokitch	How to listen to your body and reclaim your own health
January 10	Don McEnhill	Russian Riverkeeper advocates, educates, upholds environmental laws to protect and restore the Russian River for all who enjoy it
February 7	Family Life Center	Educating and transforming lives of troubled youth
March 6	Dr. Jeff Harding	The current state of our local public schools
April 3	Tech Trek	Report on Tech Trek
May 1	Carol McKnight	How hypnotherapy can improve general health, well-being, and self-understanding, e.g. smoking cessation and insomnia relief

--Kim Kopp and Carol McKnight

GREAT IDEA!

At this summer's board retreat, one of the big questions was how to maximize scholarships and financial support to individuals and educational programs we wish to assist.

Sue Campbell brought home a great idea from the AAUW Convention: let's try fundraising for our Tech Trek program from companies specializing in engineering, science, and technology. The thinking is that certain companies may wish to support this excellent AAUW program that has long-term benefits in the likelihood of creating future engineers and scientists.

We are now getting together a committee to explore, set up, and implement this idea. If you have a background in engineering, science, technology, or fundraising--or if you just love the idea of supporting Tech Trek--we'd love to talk to you. We're hoping to have several members involved so the workload could be minimal. Some of the ideas we came up with are even fun!

If you are interested in getting in on an exciting new program, or have any questions, please contact **Judy Edmonds at 433-2370**.

Great Decisions discussion group will be continuing its meetings into the fall and winter. Our usual meeting date is the third Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. We will be looking forward to studying "Germany Ascendant," "Sanctions and Nonproliferation of Nuclear Material and Weapons Around the World," "Multilateralism and Problems of Global Climate and Global Economy," and "The Caucasus after the Soviet Collapse." The article "A Critical Time in California Public Policy" on the Home Page of the California AAUW website might also be of interest. We have study books for a couple more people, so if anyone would like to join us, call **Suzanne Pfau, 431-0706**. **The first meeting will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 8.**

AAUW Potluck Buffet



When: Sunday, October 2, 2011, 5 p.m. to...

Where: At the home of Joyce and Richard Scramaglia, 319 Dry Creek Road, Healdsburg.

Hopefully outdoors, weather permitting, but cozy indoors if necessary.

Please call Joyce to confirm your reservation and to discuss what you should bring by September 18, 2011, at 433-8542, home; 322-3257, cell.

--Joyce Scramaglia

Carpools for the Potluck Buffet will form and leave from the parking lot behind "The Bean Affair" located at Healdsburg and March Avenues, at 4:45 p.m. Please email [Ronnie Devitt vdevitt@comcast.net](mailto:vdevitt@comcast.net) (1) if you would like a ride or (2) if you will drive, and who or how many people you can bring.

COME GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN



We are working on getting all our members' pictures in the on-line directory. So far we have 43 of our 141 members' pictures. We will be taking pictures at the September 13 Kick-Off Meeting, Come and have your picture taken!

--Liz Loebel

Tech Trek Camp, 2011

Once again, our Healdsburg AAUW branch sent a fabulous, intelligent, and motivated group of six students to a week at Tech Trek Science & Math Camp for girls at Stanford University. I enjoyed my third year as Dorm Mom and was joined by Jessica Cameron, a 2001 Tech Trekker from Healdsburg who returned as a Dorm Mom. Jessica is the first of our former campers to return to help with the camp. Amazing!



Each of us was in charge of the wellbeing of ten campers who awoke at 6 a.m. and kept going until 10:30 p.m., with the exception of Star Gazing Night, which began at dark and ended when the last camper saw her fill of planets and stars through the huge telescopes set up by the Palo Alto Astronomy Club on a field high on a campus hill.

The campers enjoyed classes in math and science (no tests, just LOTS of learning!), afternoon presenters which included the Lighting Director from Pixar, a mathematician from EMC which is a data collection company employing many mathematicians, field trips to the Discovery Museum and the new Computer History Museum, as well as a trip to a marsh to collect field samples.

We enjoyed a visit from six of our branch members (Laurie Wachter, Ann Mahoney, Janice Scales, Judy Edmonds, Charlene Luks, and Cathy Chiminello) who got a good feel for what the girls do on a daily basis. Remember that our Homes Tour raises the funds for these full scholarships for the girls. Thanks to all who make that happen!

And as one of our campers said to me, "I'm just going to close my eyes for five minutes before dinner" And that was the end of that!

--Tami Weiner-Stout



Reading Rocks

A new school year is beginning and what better way to support our local schools than giving a little of your personal time? Working one-on-one, only one hour a week, helping a child learn to read is a sure way to brighten your day and theirs. Again this year we are asking for volunteers to work with students in traditional kindergarten and first grade classes as well as in the Spanish Immersion classes. If you are interested, please contact me, shally.schultz@sbcglobal.net, 473-0838.

-- Shally Shultz

Member News

Audrey Darby won sixth place for a photo entry at the Sonoma County Fair. The photo below was taken at the Cinco de Mayo Club at Healdsburg High School. Audrey took the photo when she and her short-term foreign exchange student from Thailand, who was a member of the club, attended a meeting together.





Chef's Squad

The newly formed "Chef's Squad" is up and running. It is a group of twelve to fifteen AAUW members brought together by Elisa Musson. They love to cook, try new and healthy recipes, pair the food with local wines and put forth, four times a year, a beautiful meal to share with their guests.

For the first event, the squad was divided into two groups, to allow room for members to work together comfortably in each other's kitchens. One group met at Judy Edmonds and EJ Neil's home on June 8, and the other group met the next evening at the home of Jan and Bill Garwin. The same



menu was used both evenings. Judy Edmonds summed it up by saying, "I loved the camaraderie of cooking together with friends. With everyone responsible for only one dish, there is no pressure but lots of pleasure."

A "Dinner Champetre" took place at Bob and Kay Mattei's in August, where the group enjoyed appetizers by the beautiful creek, and later dined on butterflyed leg of lamb roasted in the outdoor pizza oven that Bob built. Elisa explains that *champ* in French means *field*. "Dinner champetre means a dinner after a hard day of work in the fields in the middle of summer when the heat is at its peak. Everyone is ready to sit down on a bench or

anywhere in the shade at the end of the day ...sipping some pastis or wine, sharing food with good friends and/or coworkers, telling jokes, and playing petanque with a full belly and a joyful mood."

The Chef's Squad will meet again in September to plan the fall dinner. The theme then will be grapes, harvest, and wine. In September the group will also visit the Salmon Creek Duck Farm in Bodega Bay, and in October learn how to make bread.

*If you know of a restaurant chef who would be willing to demonstrate a recipe to the group, please contact **Elisa** at 303/641-9572. Your help would be appreciated.*

--Gail and Phil Wright

Couples Bridge would welcome new members this year. We will meet on the second Friday at 7 p.m. in rotating homes. Lida and Verne Simmons will host September 9. Contact Candy Danhausen for more information candyjetta@comcast.net, or call Lida Simmons to reserve your chairs, 431-2141.

Cultural Event



Our first cultural event for the new season is on Friday, September 23, when we will kayak down the Russian River.

No boating skills are necessary as we will have help and guidance from River's Edge Kayak Rentals. Basic swimming skills are recommended. We'll be stopping at a beach for lunch, so bring a picnic lunch. You'll also want a waterproof bag for your personal items; they're available from the rental company for just \$1. The cost for the trip will be \$40. We will meet at the east side of the Memorial Bridge at 10:30 a.m. Don't forget the sunblock; a floppy hat might come in handy as well. Contact Lida Simmons vsimmons@comcast.net or 431-2141 to make your reservation. Hope to see you there.

--Shannon Barton-Wren

New Members

Laurie Windham

Laurie is a woman of many interests and talents. She has lived in the Sonoma area for a number of years but in the last two years determined to settle in Healdsburg, finding it a friendly and welcoming town. The choice has been a “good decision,” she declared, because the last few years haven’t been easy. She has had to cope with the loss of her husband and a battle with cancer.



Having previously worked in technology, she is the author of two books on business strategy. A choice to change her lifestyle resulted in a second

career as owner/manager of a ranching resort. Her master’s degree in marketing and music led her back to what she jokingly considers at least a “fifth” career, this time as playwright. Her first play, for which she also wrote the music, has been performed in Dallas, and will be presented again soon. Currently she is working on an original musical.

Suzanne Valla

Suzanne and her husband, Gene, while still maintaining a home in San Francisco, are making Healdsburg their primary residence. They bought a country home at the very end of West Dry Creek in 1981, seeking relief from the Twin Peaks chill in San Francisco, and the fear their children would grow up never knowing what the sun looked like, or what summer was like without having to wear a parka. Suzanne has retired from her job as a school counselor, but as a licensed marriage/family therapist maintains a small therapy



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, Deana Fusco, deana.fusco@sbcglobal.net.

practice in the city. When her children were small she was a member of AAUW and was excited to discover our local chapter from an advertisement for the Home Tour she found at the Healdsburg Farmer’s Market. Suzanne is a big supporter of raising money for schools. She loves to do crafts and tend to her garden, declaring she always plants lots of zucchini because it never fails to make her feel like a good gardener.

Marie Cohen

Marie is a long time resident of the area having first moved here in 1984. Some of you may remember her from her teaching days at Healdsburg High School where she taught English, English as a Second Language, and art. However, in the last few years, many of you are probably most familiar with her if you had need of the services of an interior designer. As a co-owner with her husband, Julian, of ARC Design, Marie’s focus has been on her artistic side, having found an outlet through home design and as a working artist.



A lifelong interest in ethnic dance and the ability to speak four languages (Italian was spoken in her home) led her to become involved with The Marin/Sonoma County Balkan Choral Group, Gradina, an a cappella choral group which sings Eastern European songs. Like many in our area she loves to garden, focusing primarily on her 70 rose bushes. An avid reader, she has already participated in the First Thursday AAUW book club. --Mary Ann Mayo

Friday Lunch Group

The Friday Lunch Group will have its first lunch October 28. It will be held at Shimo, for \$25, all inclusive. More details to follow in our next *Grapevine*. I hope you all had a lovely summer, and

I look forward to seeing 32 women next month. --Helaine Scholze