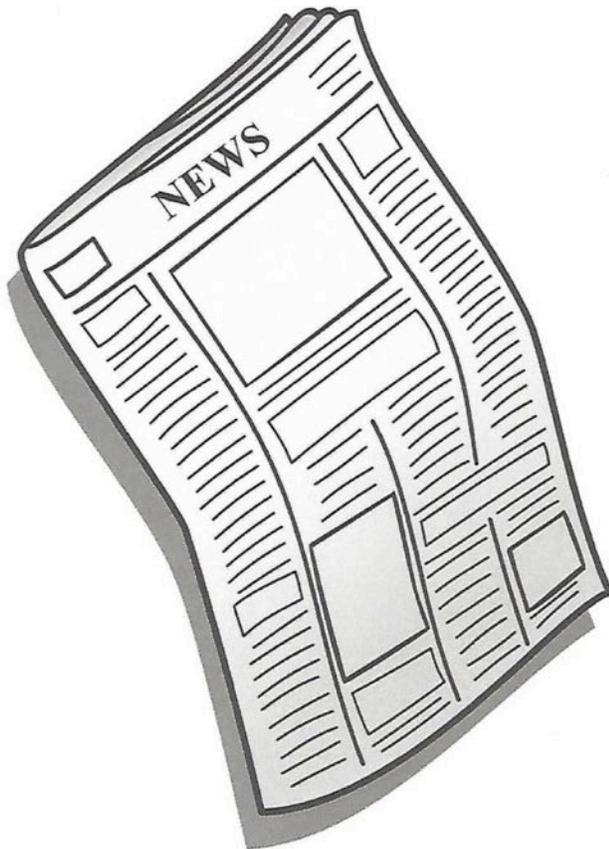


# THE AAUW KEY

Palo Alto CA Branch

June 2016 • Volume 63 • Number 10

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**The news is that this is the last monthly issue of the KEY.**

Those if you who were at the March membership lunch will remember the discussion we had at that time. Without more member

participation it is difficult to put on events or to administer other branch activities. Because no one has agreed to serve in some of the open positions, we are having to leave them vacant. Without a co-editor, monthly KEY issues will be replaced by quarterly issues. For more information come to a board meeting. Next one is June 3 at Channing House.

## Tech Trek Essays 2016 Continued

Here are the application essays submitted by our final three 2016 Tech Trek campers.

All of our Tech Trek campers are in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and are 12 or 13 years old.

[Note: Ashley V. from St. Elizabeth Seton declined the campership she was offered. In her stead alternate candidate Jackelyn G. will attend Camp Hopper so it is Jackelyn's essay that appears here]

### Jackelyn G., St. Elizabeth Seton

As a little kid I thought what am I going to be when I grow up. I've thought about being a Doctor or a Scientist. The idea came up all the time. By 3<sup>rd</sup> grade we started learning math, science and English. It was time for math and at first when Ms. Moore said to do this problem that she put on the board, I was surprised because she hadn't explained anything to us. So I picked up my pencil and wrote it down in my notebook. I was so nervous. Then she said "pencils down", and I thought she was playing around. Was she testing us? She put the answer on the board and it was the same as my paper! I was so happy and I said to myself "I can get used to this". Now it was time for science. She was talking about black holes and plants. I was happy for learning new things but I didn't know it was going to be so hard and so confusing. By the end of class I was sad because I wanted to learn more. Time passed by and I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, wow, I can't believe I made it so far. I said to myself "There is still more to go." I was mostly excited for math and science class. Our first class was religion and then it was science! I was so excited for what we were going to learn this year. Our teacher Ms. Barrett said "Take out your notebook and answer the question on the board." Everything was so different, but it was a good different. Something that really fascinates me from the class was that I love learning new things and also love reading science articles, they are so interesting. We were learning about living and nonliving it's so cool. It was more fun because we played a game and I loved it. Something that I really love

doing in since is experiments and getting to read things about discoveries people have made. I also love going to science camps and robotics clubs, it's so cool and fun. I like how there are so many mysteries and things that need to be solved. When I grow up I wanna be able to find the weirdest things, also study the sea and find things that are in it. Now it was time for math. Everything change and it's so different. Something that really fascinates me in math is that no matter how hard the problem is you can always figure it out. Never give up! I love doing equations and stuff like that. My favorite thing to do in math is exercise and games like around the world. Math is something special to me because I wanna be the best at it. I wanna be able to say the answer once I hear the problem. That day I thought to myself "what am I going to be when I grow up?" I wanna be something big in life. I said to myself if you want to be something big, work hard for it, never give up! Always go forward never backwards!

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Yasmine A., Terman

### Perfectly Perpendicular

A few years ago, a little girl in the fourth grade and her classmates had just received their math tests back, and were reviewing their answers at the teacher's table. One at a time, they checked their answers with the teacher to understand their mistakes. When it was all done, the little girl has gotten a perfect score! The little boy sitting to her left had not. However, he had noticed that the little girl has gotten 100%, and whether it was on purpose, or without realizing it, he exclaimed, "Hey! How come a *girl* got a higher score than me? That's not supposed to happen!" That little girl was me. My experiences have shown me quite differently: girls can do math and science as well as boys, if not better.

The reason that I love math and science has nothing to do with what the boy said. I love math and science because they are fascinating, fun, and can be applied to real life situations such as in architecture, robotics, engineering, and even baking! Although everything in math has been interesting to me, this year I have been particularly intrigued by how lines can be

represented by an equation ( $y = mx + b$ ) and also how one can make a different line that is perpendicular or parallel by adjusting the slope and y-intercept. While reviewing to problems from my homework, I realized that by changing the slope,  $m$ , to its negative reciprocal,  $-1/m$ , the new line is perpendicular to the original line. I am looking forward to studying similar topics later on.

In the future, I would like to relate equations of lines to the paths that robots follow to do a task: Google self-driving cars, search-and-rescue robots that would help find survivors in natural disasters, airplanes on autopilot following lines in the sky to reach their destination, etc. In the past, I learned to program a plush toy with LilyPad Arduino, which I enjoyed greatly because in addition to using computers to code, I was able to use my interest in arts and crafts to design and sew together my stuffed robot. One of the coolest things about my robot was that it had a sensor and caused an LED to blink when multiple people held hands to complete the circuit. When one person broke the circuit, by letting go of their neighbor's hand, the LED would automatically stop blinking. I hope to put these two interests together to make the world a better place.

We need more women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to provide examples for girls of any age to follow in their footsteps. I hope I will be given the opportunity to participate in Tech Trek this summer, and maybe one day I can be a role model for young girls aspiring to pursue careers in STEM. Thank you for taking time to read my application.

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**Jessica F., Jordan**

### **Math is Like a Puzzle**

Math is like a puzzle. This is why math has always been my favorite subject. There is always a right and wrong answer, and if you get a different answer than somebody, you can discuss how you got your answer. In other subjects, your grade depends on what your teacher thinks of your argument. Also, math and science are the same all around the world. When I see my cousins from other countries,

they have different versions of English and history.

It is not as much a specific concept in math that I enjoy, but the act of figuring out and solving the problem. For example, last week my class was working with circles, like the one below [ED: diagram not included in this reproduction of the essay]. You had to work out the measure of the arc of one of the longest sides and you only knew the angle of one of the smaller sides.

When I first looked at the problem, I didn't know how to start. The problem didn't have a clear answer right away, and at first glance looked unsolvable. Then I looked closer at the problem. I realized that I had to find the angle  $O$  to find the measure of the arc. So I added lines from  $E$  and  $P$  to the center. I noticed that there was a right triangle that had a 35-degree angle. So I knew that the other angle had to be 55 degrees. From there other angles started falling into place. I kept working out how some angles connected with other angles. With just knowing one angle, I was able to piece together enough information to solve the question.

Math has definitely gotten harder from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Last year, we spend a couple of weeks on each concept, and I found it easy to pick up these concepts. Now that I am in the faster math lane, it has become slightly more challenging. The class has been moving through concepts quicker than last year, and in the beginning it can be difficult to keep up. But with the math moving faster, it has become more fun; I have learnt new and interesting things, like the Pythagoras theorem, or the Fibonacci sequence. This year, we have been given more tools to solve more complex problems. Now, if I have a harder problem, I work with the people around me to come up with a new way of looking at the problem.

I have always enjoyed math. From figuring out what  $1+1$  is, to solving multi-step geometry problems. Math for me has always been about solving puzzles. As math gets more challenging, we get more tools to solve these problems, making the puzzles more interesting and more enjoyable.

# June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>Evening</b> <b>Bridge</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Board</b> <b>Meeting</b> <b>1 – 3:00</b> <b>p.m</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Supper Club</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Mah Jong,</b> <b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Writers</b> <b>1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Walkers</b> <b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Film Buffs</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>(NEW TIME)</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Meditation</b> <b>9:45 a.m.</b> <b>Mystery</b> <b>Books</b> <b>1:30 p.m</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Fam. History</b> <b>No meeting</b> <b>in June</b> <b>Mah Jong,</b> <b>Evening</b> <b>Books, both</b> <b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Writers</b> <b>NOON</b> <b>Potluck</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Wine</b> <b>Tasting</b> <b>5 – 7 pm</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Gadabouts</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Meditation</b> <b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

**Board Meeting will be Friday, June 3 1;00 p.m. Our hostess is Marian Gex. All branch members are welcome to attend, email [sections@aauw-paloalto.org](mailto:sections@aauw-paloalto.org) . Note change of meeting day to FRIDAY!**

*With the exception of the Supper Club, you do not need to be a member of the section to attend a meeting, but call the hostess or section chair to see if there is space for you.*

## **Please refer to your member director for contact information.**

**Monday Evening Books:** Meets Monday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m. We will be returning to the home of Elsie Kent, -- for the June meeting. The book for discussion is "*The Nightingale*" by Kristin Hannah. Valet parking is provided, but please let Else know if you are coming.

**Mystery Books:** Meets Tuesday, June 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Marcia Baugh in P.A. Call Marcia for this month's topic.

**Drama Reading:** We meet on the second Monday at 7:30 p.m. October through May. Call Mildred Saxman for further details.

**Evening Bridge:** Meets the first Wednesday of the month. More players needed. Call Wilma Milligan for further information.

**Family History:** There will be no meeting in June. In the fall we will change to a second Tuesday meeting day. Family History members share stories from their families or general historic topics of interest. Please contact Betsy Colby for information.

**Film Buffs:** Meets Saturday, June 11, at 6:30 Palo Alto. Our hostess is Elsie Kent. Spouses are welcome. Movies we may discuss include "Dough", "The Meddler" and "Sing Street". Call Marian Gex for information or email [sections@aauw-paloalto.org](mailto:sections@aauw-paloalto.org) to be added to the list.

**Gad-Abouts:** Gad-Abouts meet year round on the fourth Monday of the month at 2 p.m to plan outings and adventures of all kinds. The next meeting will be June 27, 2:00 p.m. at Misao Sakamoto's home in Palo Alto. Please call Scotty Martinson for more information.

**Mah Jong:** Beginners and advanced players are invited to play Mah Jong, a Chinese tile game. Meets on the first and third Mondays at 7:30 pm. Please call Marcia Baugh for location and other details

**Meditation:** Meets the second and fourth Tuesdays, 10 a.m., at the home of Marcia Baugh, RSVP to Marcia Baugh. Call Charlotte Jackson for further information.

**Supper Club:** Meets on the first Saturday at 7 p.m. Call Sylvia Whitcher or Mary Morrison for information.

**Walkers:** Please call Mary Ashley for information or join the email list.

**Wine Tasting:** Wine Tasting meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, from 5 to 7 p.m. Next meeting will be June 26. **There is no meeting in December.** Call Carol Hansen, or Barbara Bowden for more information.

**Writers:** Meets Tuesday, June 7 at 1:30 p.m. and again Tuesday, June 21 at NOON for the annual Pot Luck. Call Marcia Baugh or for location and to RSVP.

## Tech Trek Tea

The Mountain View-Los Altos Branch invited us to participate in their May meeting that was a tea social for both our Branches' Tech Trek girls. Turnout was good with four of our girls attending and all seven of the MV-LA girls attending.

Sheila Brady, an early software engineer and former VP at Apple, was the speaker. She did a great job of relating directly to the girls. She asked them what books they liked and seemed familiar with those titles.

Sheila explained that her first interest was in art but that she had discovered the magic of using computers to create graphic images. She told of her work in developing editing software that is used in film and video.



The Play! courtyard was cool and unique and the Play! staff was helpful and generous to not charge rental fees. Vicki Reeder, of MV-LA, did all of the coordination and our members helped with the refreshments.



All Tech Trek Girls with Sheila Brady

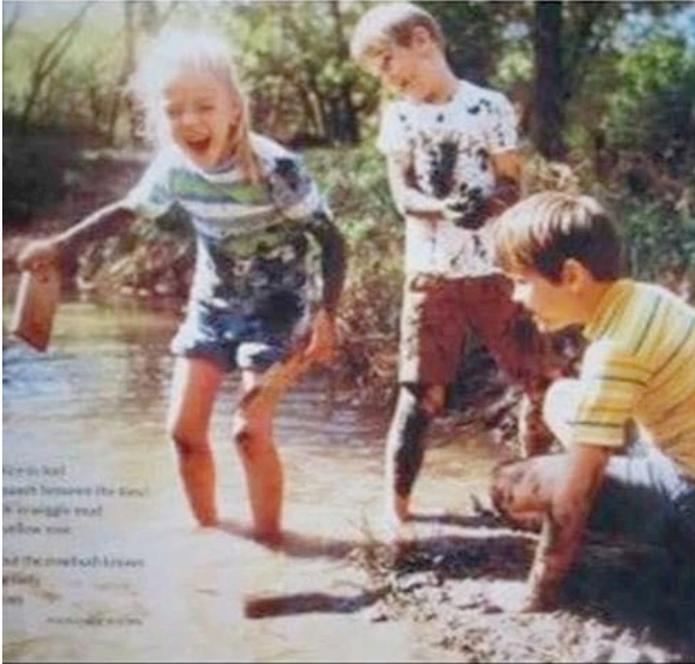


Anna Zara with Yasmine, Jessica, Dayana and Dunya. 4 of our 2016 campers



Just for fun in case you haven't already seen these...

# SO GLAD I GREW UP



**DOING THIS**



**NOT THIS**

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER. GET A LITTLE MESSY.



*The Key*  
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Palo Alto, CA 94306-0653

PERIODICALS

Palo Alto Branch 2014-2015 Leadership Team:  
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Barbara Evans, Key Editor: key@aauw-paloalto.org  
Winnie Lew, Calendar Editor: calendar@aauw-paloalto.org

**AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.**

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Section Calendar items may be sent to the Calendar Editor by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month at: calendar@aauw-paloalto.org

Postmaster: Send address changes to AAUW Administrative Secretary. P.O. Box 60653, Palo Alto, CA 94306-0653.  
I certify that the above information is true and complete: Barbara Evans, Editor.

*The Key June 2016*