

# THE AAUW KEY

Palo Alto CA Branch

February 2017 • Volume 64 • Number 3

## **Eighth Annual AAUW Palo Alto's Author Lunch**

**Saturday, February 25th, 2017 • 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Michaels at Shoreline • 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd. • Mountain View  
\$45.00 per person • \$20 of the ticket price will help send deserving  
7th grade girls to Tech Trek, AAUW's math/science camp  
held at Stanford in July.**



*Susan Sherman's recently published book, **If You Are There** tells the story of Lucia Rutkowski who becomes nanny to the children of Marie and Pierre Curie. Among the people who come to meet the famous Curies is a well known medium who attracts the interest of young Lucia, who is then torn between science as represented by her employers and the occult world of the medium.*

*Elizabeth McKenzie sets her story, **The Portable Veblen**, in Palo Alto. It is a tale of a romance complicated by problems in both partner's families. It is also a story of the "get rich quick" possibilities of innovation but also about the compromises those can entail.*



*Laurie King is best known for the Mary Russell books in which Mary, a young scholar, meets and becomes the protégé of a middle-aged Sherlock Holmes. Beginning with **The Beekeeper's Apprentice**, Mary and Sherlock have now appeared in some dozen novels. Another Laurie King series includes the Kate Martinelli mysteries that feature a San Francisco policewoman and her psychiatrist wife.*

*Gail Tsukiyama has written a number of admired books set in both China and Japan. Some of us have read her earlier books such as **Women of the Silk**, a story that underscores the strong bonds between working women. She has also written about a Chinese family impacted by the Cultural Revolution, and in **The Street of a Thousand Blossoms** she tells of two orphaned Japanese boys pursuing their talents in Tokyo in 1939 and the effect of war on their lives.*



**This year we are introducing debuting authors Elizabeth McKenzie and Susan Sherman on a panel with veterans Laurie King and Gail Tsukiyama. There will be an opportunity to purchase books at the event courtesy of Books, Inc. and have them autographed.**

**To reserve your spot, please mail the form in this issue with your check made payable to AAUW PA to AAUW Palo Alto, P.O. Box 60653, Palo Alto, CA 94306, or visit [paloalto-ca.aauw.net](http://paloalto-ca.aauw.net) to register and pay by credit card.**

**If reservation won't arrive by Feb. 22 deadline, call 650-380-3617 so we can save a place for you.**

## **AAUW Palo Alto's Author Lunch** **Well Known Authors and Less** **Known Authors**

-- *Barbara Evans*

At our author lunches, we like to give you the opportunity to meet new and different authors as well as to hear from some of your favorites. This year we are introducing our members to Elizabeth Mckenzie and Susan Sherman on a panel with Laurie King and Gail Tsukiyama.

Elizabeth sets her story, *The Portable Veblen*, in Palo Alto. It is a tale of a romance complicated by problems in both partner's families. It is also a story of the "get rich quick" possibilities of innovation but also about the compromises those can entail.

Susan Sherman has recently published a book that should be especially interesting to AAUW members. *If You Are There* tells the story of Lucia Rutkowski who becomes nanny to the children of Marie and Pierre Curie. Among the people who come to meet the famous curies is a well known medium who attracts the interest of young Lucia and Lucia is then torn between science as represented by her employers and the occult world of the medium.

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The luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 11:30 to 2:00 at Michaels of Shoreline. Please make your reservation before February 22.

Tickets are \$45 per person, \$20 of which is a contribution to our Tech Trek scholarships.

Additional tax-deductible donations to our camper scholarships may be made by check payable to **AAUW**, with "Tech Trek Camp Hopper – Palo Alto" noted on the memo line.

To attend the luncheon there are two ways to reserve your place:  
Option one: can clip out and complete the form that follows this article, then mail the form with your check payable to AAUW Palo Alto to

**AAUW Palo Alto**  
**P.O. Box 60653, Palo Alto, CA 94306**

**ATTN: Barbara Evans**

Option two: visit our website and reserve online using PayPal to make your reservation. There will be an additional \$1.61 per reservation fee to cover PayPal costs. [www.aauw-paloalto.org](http://www.aauw-paloalto.org)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (for questions) \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch choices (choose one):

\_\_\_ Shrimp Louis Salad

\_\_\_ Chinese Chicken Salad

\_\_\_ Chopped Cobb Salad

\_\_\_ Mushroom Crepes

## Meet AAUW Fellow Connie Wun

Your donations to AAUW Funds are this year specifically helping support Connie Wun. She is a 2016-17 recipient of an AAUW postdoctoral fellowship and is currently doing research at Mills College. She also has a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

The daughter of immigrants, she was raised in the East Bay of California. She said her parents did not know how the college system in the U.S. works but, with help from teachers, she learned what to do. She received a B.A. from San Francisco State University and then earned a Ph.D. from UC-Berkeley in the Graduate School of Education. She gave a commencement speech at CAL on the difficulties of being a woman of color in academia.

Dr. Wun has worked as a high school teacher, sexual assault counselor and youth advocate. Her research interests include the politics of school violence, discipline and punishment, particularly in girls of color. She has published extensively in her field.

Dr. Wun's current project examines the different ways that formal and informal discipline practices shape the academic and personal lives of black and non-black girls of color. She is also exploring the impact of social media on those girls. Since learning about AAUW, she is exploring ways that interested branches might help her with projects or research.



THE POWER OF YOUR GIFTS

## Danielle Feinberg Honored By AAUW National

--- Marie Wolbach

Palo Alto Branch members may recall the evening a few years ago when Pixar Lighting Director, Danielle Feinberg, spoke to a standing room only crowd at a Palo Alto AAUW program. Danielle has volunteered at Tech Trek for 15 years, showing the young women how an animated film is made and inspiring them to think about computer programming in a new way.

National AAUW has announced that Danielle Feinberg will be one of five women named as Women of Distinction at AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The conference is held at the University of Maryland, College Park. Over 900 college women from across the nation will gather May 31-June 3, 2017, and will hear from the Women of Distinction on June 1.



<https://www.nccwsl.org/2017/01/12/pixar-engineer-has-a-brave-story-of-her-own/>

# February 2017 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
.			1 Evening Bridge	2	3 BOARD MEETING	4 .
5	6 Mah Jong	7 Writers	8 .	8	10 Walkers .	11 Film Buffs
12	13 Drama Reading	14 Meditation  Family History  Mystery Books	15	16	17	18
19 .	20 Monday Evening Books  Mah Jong	21 Writers	22	23	24	25 AUTHORS LUNCHEON
26 Wine Tasting	27 Gad Abouts	28 Meditation				

**Check your directory for Section contact details.**

**Board Meeting:** The next Branch board meeting will be on **February 3** at 1:00 at Channing House.

All branch members are welcome to attend. Please email [president@auw-paloalto.org](mailto:president@auw-paloalto.org) with comments or questions.

**Monday Evening Books:** Meets **Feb. 20**, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at a member's house. For the location of the next meeting call Barbara Evans.

**Mystery Books:** Meets, **Feb. 14**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 1:30 pm at the home of Marcia BaughRSVP to Marcia.

**Drama Reading:** Meets, **Feb. 13**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month from October through May. Please call Millie Saxman (799-7095) for further information.

**Evening Bridge:** Meets, **Feb. 1**, the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. More players needed. Call Wilma Milligan for further information.

**Family History:** Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – **Feb 14**, 11:45am at Cibo's 3398 El Camino, Palo Alto for a no-host lunch. The theme for February will be family involvement in WWII. Contact Betsy Colby for questions

**Film Buffs:** Meets, **Feb. 11**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, at 2:30 p.m. Sixth Floor Lounge, Channing House. Spouses are welcome. Call Marian Gex for further information or to be added to the e-mail list.

**Gad-Abouts:** **Feb 27.** Gad-Abouts usually meets year round on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 2 p.m. to plan outings and adventures of all kinds. Meeting location is Misao Sakamoto's home in Palo Alto Please call Scotty Martinson for information.

**Mah Jong:** **Feb 6 & 20.** Beginners and advanced players are invited to play Mah Jong, a Chinese tile game. Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7:00 pm. Call Marcia Baugh for location and other details.

**Meditation:** **Feb 14 & 28.** Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m. For location call Charlotte Jackson.

**Walkers:** **Feb 10.** Meets the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month. Please call Mary Ashley for more information or to join the e-mail list.

**Wine Tasting:** **Feb 26**, 5 – 7 PM. Members study and taste wines, domestic and imported, selected by members of the group. Spouses are welcome. Call Barbara Bowden or Carol Hansen for information.

**Writers:** **Feb 7 & 21.** Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. Call Marcia Baugh for location.

Our Branch calendar is now on-line and accessible two ways – from our Branch website <http://auw-paloalto.org> or directly via the public Google Calendar

**AAUW Palo Alto Activity Calendar,**

Calendar ID: [auw.paloalto.org@gmail.com](mailto:auw.paloalto.org@gmail.com)

## Can We Get Rid of the Electoral College?

By Diane Rolfe

“Can We Ever Get Rid of the Electoral College?” was the title of a highly informative speech by Stanford History Professor Jack Rakove, given on January 11th to an overflowing crowd of 500 people at Congregation Beth Am. The Palo Alto League of Women Voters and Congregation Beth Am sponsored the program with AAUW-Palo Alto, Avenidas, Los Altos- Mountain View League of Women Voters, and the Palo Alto Weekly as co-sponsors. Professor Rakove, who won a Pulitzer Prize in History, led a fascinating discussion on the history and complications of the Electoral College. The frustration with our presidential election system was evident from the audience’s questions and the large turnout.

Professor Rakove opposes the Electoral College and strongly favors the election of our president by the popular vote. In the process of explaining the complicated history of the Electoral College, Professor Rakove displayed a detailed understanding of the Electoral College, the development of the Constitution, and the evolution of the Electoral College. He believes the Electoral College now undermines the legitimacy of our electorally elected president, especially when one considers that one can lose the popular vote, like Trump did to Hillary Clinton by nearly 3,000,000 votes, and still become President. The same event happened in 2000 with Gore winning the popular vote by approximately 120,000, but losing the Electoral College vote to George W. Bush.

The shortcomings of the current system result from the winner-take-all statutes (i.e. state laws that award all of a state’s electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each state). The Electoral College arose back in 1787 when the framers of the U.S. Constitution chose the Electoral College as a compromise between election by the people and election by the “electors” whom the Founders felt would be better informed. And what determines the number of electors per state? As Rakove pointed out, regardless of populations, each state gets 2 votes (one for each US Senator) plus a single vote for each Congressional

representative. Again, this favors the seven, small, rural states that receive an outsized number of electors.

Why do we have this system? Basically, the small populations in southern states were given two plums to get them to buy into the Constitution of 1787: 1) all slaves counted as 3/5’s of a person when determining representation in Congress and 2) the electoral system they adopted gave them greater political power in determining the President. Today, it has become nearly grotesque, in that California with 39,500,000 people has 55 electors and Wyoming, with 588,000 residents, has three electors. At all times, Rakove was erudite, humorous, with many little fascinating stories about the Founders of the Constitution of 1787.

In terms of the question, “Can We Ever Get Rid of the Electoral College?” he answered that the best method is a constitutional amendment. He pointed out that the Popular Vote Interstate Compact among the States has been gaining support, but it has many complications if enacted including legal challenges such as it needs to be passed by Congress. What we need is a constitutional amendment so that one person, one vote is the law of the land when determining our President. Many people feel that a constitutional amendment takes too long, and the National Popular Vote Bill has already been approved by 11 states. (Under the compact, the national popular vote winner would be the candidate who received the most popular votes from all 50 states and the District of Columbia on Election Day.) Professor Rakove’s advice was for all of us to get involved, organize, and demand action on this critical issue. Make your vote count!



## **AAUW's accomplishments in 2016**

As this New Year comes begins, it's time to look back at AAUW's 2016 achievements. Our accomplishments are the result of the work of all of our members and supporters. Without this grassroots work, the success of the last year would not have been possible. These are some of the accomplishments of AAUW in 2016:

- **200,000+** messages went out to state and federal legislators.
- **6** states passed new equal pay laws in 2016.
- **714** resource guides were delivered to Title IX coordinators in 29 states.
- **2,200** signatures collected on AAUW's petition urging Anheuser-Busch to sign the White House Equal Pay Pledge.
- **44** years of Title IX celebrated with Senator Harry Reid.
- **900+** get-out-the-vote events organized by members in 46 states.
- **19** AAUW members were elected to state legislatures.
- **12,000** young women and girls were empowered through AAUW's leadership programs.
- **11,460** women learned to ask for the salary they deserve through AAUW salary workshop negotiations

The full article summarizing AAUW's work in 2016 is here:

<http://www.aauw.org/2016/12/22/aauw-action-network-accomplishments-2016/>

### **FUTURE BRANCH EVENTS**

- **Apr. 7:** Board meeting – open to all members. Send email to [president@aauw-paloalto.org](mailto:president@aauw-paloalto.org) to give input.
- **May 1:** Quarter 4 Key published
- **Mid-May:** Spring Luncheon and Installation of new officers

## **NOTES FROM NATIONAL AAUW National AAUW Election 2017**

Yes, another election is coming soon and your vote is sought.

AAUW adopted the “One member, one vote” policy a few years ago. Now it's time to learn about the candidates for AAUW offices and select issues to be addressed in the future. Voting may be done online or members may request paper ballots.

Videos of the candidates will be available after January 31 at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org). Several Californians have filed for positions on the Board of Directors, including the office of president.

The recently announced timeline for AAUW the election is as follows.

- Early April 2017: Voter PIN numbers, needed for voting, will be e-mailed to members and mailed with the Spring *AAUW Outlook* magazine. That issue will contain the slate of candidates, bylaws proposals, Public Policy Program proposals, and resolutions.
- April 3, 2017: Opening date to request paper ballot
- April 14, 2017: Voting begins online
- May 4, 2017: Deadline for AAUW to receive request for paper ballot
- May 22, 2017: Deadline for mailing paper ballot; ballots must be postmarked by 11:59 p.m. to be counted
- June 14–17, 2017: AAUW National Convention, Washington, D.C.
- June 15, 2017: Online voting ends at 9 p.m. EDT
- June 16, 2017: Election results announced online and at the convention



*The Key*  
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PERIODICALS

Palo Alto Branch 2016-2017 Leadership Team: [president@aauw-paloalto.org](mailto:president@aauw-paloalto.org)  
Barbara Bowden, Judy Brodsky, Judi Swope

Barbara Bowden Administrative Secretary  
Marian Gex, Section Coordinator  
Marie Wolbach, Key Editor:  
Anna Zara, Calendar Editor:

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

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Article submissions may be sent to the Key Editor by the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month at: [key@aauw-paloalto.org](mailto:key@aauw-paloalto.org)  
Section Calendar items may be sent to the Calendar Editor by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month at: [calendar@aauw-paloalto.org](mailto: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: Editor.