

THE AAUW KEY

Palo Alto CA Branch

September 2017 • Volume 65 • Number 1

AAUW Palo Alto invites you to its 2017 Fall Kickoff!

Saturday, September 16 1:00 p.m. (Open at 12:30)
Palo Alto City Council Chambers
250 Hamilton Avenue, 1st floor, Palo Alto
Free underground parking

Featuring:

Santa Clara County Supervisor

Joe Simitian

reporting on his recent trip:

"Listening to Trump's America"



Co-sponsored by League of Women Voters of Palo Alto

- Learn about AAUW & LWV activities
- The Public is Welcome
- Questions? info@aauw-paloalto.org or aauw-paloalto.org

Leadership Team Message

By Marie Wolbach, Co-President

Detailed predictions about the total solar eclipse and absolute unpredictability in the White House, contrasting things to be sure, are major news stories as *The Key* is prepared. Yet both have some connection to stories you will see in this issue.

Tech Trek students at Stanford University had a class in astronomy, met a young female planetary scientist during Professional Women's Evening, and spent an evening star gazing through telescopes supplied by local amateur volunteer astronomers. The solar eclipse was discussed several times. Photos and notes from the seven students sponsored by AAUW Palo Alto are in this issue.

At our Fall Kickoff meeting on September 16, Santa Clara Supervisor Joe Simitian will relate insights he gained as the result of a spring trip. He took a "Listening Tour" through several states that supported Donald Trump for president. After his speech, Supervisor Simitian will hold a Question and Answer session.

Inviting friends to attend this meeting, which is open to the public, is easy because the speaker needs little introduction. The non-partisan event will be held in Council Chambers on the first floor of Palo Alto City Hall, where free underground parking is available. Other details of the event are on the cover of this newsletter.

Members have the opportunity to sign up for the AAUW Sections of their choice before and after the speech. Descriptions of those Sections are printed in this issue.

Please guide guests to the membership table. Women or men who join AAUW that day will receive a discounted rate.

On behalf of fellow co-presidents Betsy Colby and Charlotte Jackson, welcome to a new AAUW year. We look forward to greeting you on September 16.

AAUW News & National Election Results Summary

New CEO: Kimberly Churches became the AAUW CEO on June 1. She has an impressive curriculum vita and those who have met her, or have worked with her, speak in superlatives about her leadership style. She comes to AAUW from the Brookings Institution; she was previously an associate vice chancellor at the University of Denver, a director of development at the University of North Florida, and a division director at the American Heart Association. She has extensive experience working collaboratively on education (K-12 and higher education).

New Board Chair: Julia Brown was elected AAUW Board Chair (formerly called President) in the 2017 election. She is an attorney who now lives in New Mexico but lived in California's East Bay until recently.

Bylaws Issue from recent ballot: AAUW members voted to retain the education level membership requirement as it has been.

Full AAUW national election results are here: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>

Member News:

2nd Place Finisher in the 8th Annual Midpeninsula Open Space Photo Contest
Judy Kramer, longtime AAUW member and serious amateur photographer, recently entered a photo contest sponsored by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Judy's entry finished in 2nd place in the Plant Life category after online voting, only a few votes short of first place. Her photo, "Bee Flying to California Gilia," can be viewed on her web site, Earth Witness Photography. Visit the photo contest page to see all categories and the winning photos
<https://www.openspace.org/photo-contest>

Branch Programs for 2017-18

Details of several of this year's general meetings and programs have been set; please mark your calendars with the following dates.

The September 16 meeting breaks with the tradition of having a brunch in the fall. Instead, there will be the opportunity to hear Supervisor Simitian in the City Council Chambers.

On October 12, some of the seven now 8th grade girls our Branch sponsored to attend this July's Tech Trek Camp Grace Hopper will present the program. It will be held early evening in the Embarcadero Room of Rinconada Library.

November 18 will recognize the approaching Thanksgiving holiday. The recipient of a Fellowship from AAUW Funds will speak. The Saturday morning meeting at Rinconada Library will be an opportunity to make donations to Tech Trek and AAUW Funds, which was not possible when dues were renewed electronically.

There will not be a general meeting in December. Sections are encouraged to celebrate the December holidays with their members.

On January 20, a film about Marie Curie will be shown for us by the filmmaker. She will be present to answer questions about the Nobel Prize winning scientist. This film is a one-woman show and focuses on Marie Curie's scientific life. The venue is pending

On February 3 will be a Public Policy program, likely a presentation detailing the need for Early Childhood Education. The League of Women Voters has been invited to be a co-sponsor.

On March 3 is the popular fundraiser for Tech Trek, the Author's luncheon at Michael's Restaurant. Renowned author Karen Joy Fowler has agreed to be one of the speakers.

Branch Board of Directors Meetings for 2017-18

Members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend Branch Board meetings. This year, they will be held on the first Tuesday of each month.

The Key: August 2017

To make it possible for more members to attend Board meetings, the meetings will be held at two different times during the year. They will begin at 7:00 p.m. this summer and next spring. From October to April, meetings begin at 10:30 a.m.

2017 meetings:

- September 5, 7:00 p.m.
- October 3, 10:30 a.m.
- November 7, 10:30 a.m.
- December 5, 10:30 a.m.

2018 meetings:

- February 6, 10:30 a.m.
- March 6, 10:30 a.m.
- April 3, 7:00 p.m.
- May 1, 7:00 p.m. and
- June 5, 7:00 p.m.

All Branch Board meetings will be held in the newly remodeled Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road (at Embarcadero Road) in the Embarcadero Room. This year several of our General meetings will also be held at the Rinconada Library's Embarcadero room.

Marie Wolbach to receive 2017 Kiwanis Angel Award

By Judy Kramer

Our own Marie Wolbach has been selected as the recipient of the 6th annual Kiwanis Angel Award for founding and scaling up Tech Trek, AAUW's summer STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) camp for rising 8th grade girls. Palo Alto AAUW held the first camp at Stanford University in 1998, and this summer, 22 camps were held in 10 states. The Angel Award is a project of the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto and honors an individual who has had a significant, positive impact on children and youth. A \$1,500 donation is made to the recipient's organization.

While Marie has received the prestigious national Jefferson Award, this will be her first local honor. The award reception, a fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto, will be held on Thursday, October 19, 5:30–7:30 PM, at the Palo Alto Sheraton, 625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Cost of a ticket is \$50 if reserved before October 12. For more information, please go to <http://kiwanisangelaward.org>.

August 2017 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
.		1 BOARD MEETING	2	3	4	5 .
6	7	8	9 .	10	11 .	12 Tools for Women's Rights: global Women's activism
13	14	15 Qtr. 1 - Key	16	17	18	19
20 .	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 1:30: Gadabouts	29	30	31		

Board Meeting: The Branch board meeting will be on **August 1** at 7:00pm in the Embarcadero Room of Rinconada Library.

All branch members are welcome to attend. Please email president@auw-paloalto.org with comments or questions.

Refer to your directory for section contact details.

Most sections will begin meeting in Sept.

Afternoon Books: Meets on the 3rd Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m. at members' homes. We read novels selected by the group. For info contact Joyce Freiberg.

Drama Reading: Meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Ashley. The group reads a play script distributed by an AAUW drama reading committee for a network of California branches. For further info call Millie Saxman.

Family History Meets on the 3rd Monday at Cibo's Restaurant, 3398 El Camino for a no-host lunch meeting with monthly historical themes. Please contact Betsy Colby with any questions

Film Buffs: The section is reorganizing to reflect changing membership and movie scene. Members see movies before the section meeting and discuss those movies with the group. Spouses are welcome. For further info call Barbara Evans.

Gadabouts: Gadabouts usually meets year round on the 4th Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. to plan outings and adventures of all kinds. Meeting location is Misao Sakamoto's home. Please call Scotty Martinson for information.

Mah Jong: Meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm Beginners and advanced players are invited to play Mah Jong, a Chinese tile game. Call Marcia Baugh for details.

Meditation: Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the home of Marcia Baugh. For further information contact Charlotte Jackson.

Mystery Books: Meets 2nd Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m., at the home of Marcia Baugh. The group discusses a new topic each time. For further info call Marcia Baugh.

Walkers: Walkers meets most months on the second Friday morning at 10 am. Carpooling is available to the starting point of the walk if it is outside of Palo Alto. Walks vary from easy to somewhat challenging at parks and locations in this area (one to three miles; flat sidewalks to hilly; town, bay front, foothills). Suggestions are always welcome. We have also considered having two walks a month, one easy, one more challenging if there is demand. Notify Mary Ashley if you'd like to get on the list to receive notices about walks and come try one out.

Wine Tasting: This section meets on the 4th Sunday of the month, the first meeting of this year will on September 24 - details of which to follow in the Branch September calendar email. 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: Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m, at the homes of members. The members meet twice a month to read to each other what they've written. In this way we are encouraged to keep up our writing. For further info call Marcia.



Section Profile: Gadabouts

Definition: gad·a·bout

To visit or travel to a lot of different places, enjoying yourself and not worrying about other things you should be doing.

By: Scotty Martinson

Gadabouts section was the brainchild of Jackie Thomas who hit on a workable pattern after many others had tried to find a way for Branch members to go on excursions together. In the fall of 1998 she called together interested members for a planning meeting. Everyone had suggestions for the goal of being tourists in our own backyard. Soon we participated in a guided walk of sculpture on the Stanford campus. That framework continues to guide us.

Once a month the group gathers suggestions. After interested members select a date, the member who presented the idea outlines the schedule, transportation, admission price, if any, and—very important—a good place for lunch. We get a list of sign-ups and we're off. Trips have included guided walks in San Francisco, visits to historic homes and gardens (John Muir's house, Filoli), outdoor adventures (walking the Devil's Slide trail), behind-the-scenes looks at chocolate and jellybean factories, and all manner of museums, performances and concerts. We've ridden in trains, buses (a movie tour of SF), boats (a 19th-cent. scow on the Bay), and sometimes even carpools. The photo is from our most recent outing to Alviso for a ranger-led van trip out onto dikes in the wetlands of the Bay to the ghost town of Drawbridge.

Gadabouts meet the fourth Monday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Misao Sakamoto. For information contact Scotty Martinson.



Participants left to right are: Scotty Martinson, Linda Feeney, Betty Shaft, Doris Maez, Cindy Patrick, and Grace Agardy. (Photo courtesy of Grace Agardy.)

Tools for Women's Rights: CEDAW, the UN and Woman's Activism Globally

By Helen Young

On Saturday afternoon, August 12, Palo Alto Branch and the local United Nations Association co-sponsored an informational meeting on CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women), a resolution first proposed in 1979 and signed by all UN members but seven. Since the US is one of those non-signers, American supporters are working to promote local action on its issues by getting municipal governmental agencies to sign similar resolutions and then implement their content through ordinances. Sarah Almond Pike presented the background for local action and outlined cities that have successfully passed resolutions or ordinances. Discussion following her talk focused on the need to maintain attention to these issues if anything is to change. For more information see unamidpen.org and citiesforcedaw.org, or email CEDAWpaloalto@gmail.com



**Tech Trek Camp Grace Hopper
July 16-22 @ Stanford**

By: Anna Zara

Thanks to the generosity of our Branch members and those who attended the spring Authors Luncheon, we were able to sponsor seven rising 8th grade girls to attend Tech Trek's Camp Grace Hopper this July at Stanford. As most of you know, Tech Trek is a weeklong sleep away camp where girls are immersed in a world that "empowers and encourages them to think about themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer specialists".

Our girls all had a great week and each girl wrote us a heartfelt note of thanks – there is one quote from each girl's note that will in total summarize the week:

- "It is so cool to experience camp for a week on an actual college campus!! I love spending time on a core class (mine was cyber security) and try out other activities while hearing interesting lectures." -- Vasuda D., JLS
- "I want to say thank you for this amazing opportunity. I made amazing friends and even dissected a squid, and it was really cool." -- Melissa C., St. Elizabeth Seton

- "The best part of this camp was engineering because I made a mouse trap car and a Mootar that was so cool. I really enjoyed my dorm group." -- Alanna S., 49ers Academy
- I was lucky enough to get into the Forensics group, which was what I was hoping for! [...] I am having so much fun and am learning a lot." -- Dana S., Terman
- "I really enjoyed making all the bath bombs. I also enjoyed other activities, such as making ice cream or making cars in engineering." -- Cristina B. Jordan
- "I enjoyed learning different things during Marine Biology. I have enjoyed the places we went to: fountain hopping. I have had a once in a life time experience." -- Andrea G., FCE
- "I enjoyed experiencing college life for one week. I appreciated the opportunity of making new friends with amazing and talented girls that are just as curious as I am, and being surrounded by helpful and caring adults that show passion in what they do." – Alana F., Terman



Branch members also volunteered at camp and behind the scenes! Charu Gupta and Scotty Martinson (at the right above) worked with the campers during the Mad Money exercise, a mid-week Tech Trek activity.

Mary Morrison facilitated a workshop on financing college tuition for both the Camp Hopper and Camp Curie girls.

Acting behind the scenes and getting all the camper paperwork sorted before camp was Harriet Benson.



The Key
AAUW
PALO ALTO BRANCH
P.O. BOX 60653
Palo Alto, CA 94306-0653

PERIODICALS

Palo Alto Branch 2017-2018 Leadership Team: president@aauw-paloalto.org
Betsy Colby, Charlotte Jackson, Marie Wolbach

Barbara Bowden Administrative Secretary
Scotty Martinson Section Coordinator
Marie Wolbach & Anna Zara, August *Key* Editors:
Anna Zara, Calendar Editor:

admin_secy@aauw-paloalto.org
sections@aauw-paloalto.org
key@aauw-paloalto.org
calendar@aauw-paloalto.org

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

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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