

# THE AAUW KEY

Palo Alto CA Branch

February 2018 • Volume 65 • Number 3

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

**Saturday, March 3rd, 2018 • Doors open at 11:00 a.m.**

**Lunch served promptly at 11:45 a.m. • Program begins at 12:15 p.m.**

**Michaels at Shoreline • 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd. • Mountain View  
\$50.00 per person • \$25 of the ticket price will help send deserving  
7th grade girls to Tech Trek, AAUW's STEM camp at Stanford.**



**Karen Joy Fowler** is the author of *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves: A Novel*. The heartbreaking story of two sisters, Rosemary and Fern, and a secret that turns the family upside down, it was shortlisted for the 2014 Man Booker Prize and winner of the 2014 PEN/ Faulkner Award.

**Maggie Shen King's** debut novel *An Excess Male* is about a future China dealing with the 'Bounty' of unmarried males and about ordinary people battling the corruption of their leadership. It is a Washington Post Top 5 Science Fiction and Fantasy Novel of 2017.



**Robin Sloan's** much-anticipated new book, *Sourdough: A Novel*, deals with both bread baking and technology. He has written a whimsical and fun book that treats humorously both the personalities involved in the world of fine dining and the world of farmers' markets. It was named one of the best books of 2017 by NPR, *San Francisco Chronicle*, Barnes & Noble and *Southern Living*.

*Our moderator will be Fantasy author Tad Williams. There will be an opportunity to purchase books at the event courtesy of Books, Inc. and have them autographed.*

To reserve your spot, fill out the form in this issue and mail with your check made payable to AAUW PA to AAUW Palo Alto, P.O. Box 60653, Palo Alto, CA 94306, or visit <https://tinyurl.com/y7soj5kx> to register and pay by credit card.

## Ninth Authors' Luncheon by Barbara Evans

AAUW Palo Alto's annual Authors' Luncheon will be on Saturday, March 3, at Michael's of Shoreline Restaurant. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. So that we can start the program at 12:15 p.m., lunch will be served promptly at 11:45.

The cost of the lunch will be \$50 of which one-half will go to Tech Trek. Food choices are listed on the Reservation Form on page 4.

To attend the luncheon there are two ways to reserve. (1) Mail a check with the reservation form. Phone leaders for last-minute reservations. Or (2) Visit <https://paloalto-ca.aauw.net/2017/01/30/authors-luncheon/> to reserve online using PayPal. There will be a \$1.80 fee to cover PayPal costs.

If a reservation won't arrive by Feb. 28 deadline, call 650-856-0618.

Come meet the three authors spotlighted on the cover and whose books are summarized in this issue. They each have something new and different that makes us remember how much we enjoy reading.



### Tech Trek Committee Update

By Anna Zara, Chair

2018 is Tech Trek's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year – to date Tech Trek has had a positive impact on the lives of over 15,000 girls!

This year our Branch will again be sending six girls to Tech Trek's Camp Grace Hopper at Stanford in July. Thanks to everyone who

has supported our efforts by contributing to our Branch's camper sponsorship fund!

On Sunday, January 7, we held the kick-off meeting of our 2018 Tech Trek Committee. All who responded to the call for volunteers in December were invited to attend the gathering. The purpose of this meeting was to get to know each other and to plan out our work for camper selection, fundraising and beyond. We had a full agenda and a lively discussion. We are all excited to meet the wonderful 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls who will apply for our branch camper sponsorships in the spring.

In attendance at the meeting were:

- Anna Zara - co-Branch Coordinator & TT Treasurer
- Judi Swope – co-Branch Coordinator
- Barbara Bowden
- Heather Buhr
- Marsha Duro
- Barbara Evans – Author Luncheon coordinator and Interview team
- Cathy Fisher
- Lori Van Houten

In January the call for nominations will go out to science and math teachers at Jordan, Jane Lathrop Stanford, Terman, St. Elizabeth Seton, 49ers Academy and Foundation for College Education. We will then invite all the nominated girls to apply for a camper sponsorship. To apply, girls will fill out an application form, write a 400-500 word essay and participate in an in person interview with members of our committee.

Donations are accepted at any time. Please direct questions regarding donations to our camper sponsorship fund to [tech-trek@aauw-paloalto.org](mailto:tech-trek@aauw-paloalto.org)

## **Save the Dates**

**March 3, 11 a.m.:** Authors' Luncheon at Michael's Restaurant

**April 21, 11:30 a.m.,** Annual Meeting with lunch provided, Rinconada Library

**May 12, time TBD,** Rinconada Library

## **Pink Power Hats** **By Barbara Bowden**

The Pussy Hat is a powerful statement for feminists and those who support women's rights. The hats were initially created prior to the 2017 Women's March in Washington and other major U.S. cities. They have become a global symbol of supporters of women's rights and equality. Women wear them shopping, to classes on campus, and whenever there's a need to show support for women. The hats have been featured in a Missoni fashion show in Milan, and are part of an exhibit at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

The knitters at Channing House took up our needles and set out to support women's rights by supporting a local organization, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte. PPMM has several clinics in a network that provides basic health care services for women and their families, cancer screening, and family planning counseling. (BTW, abortions are only about 3% of their services.)

Given our sensibilities, we refer to our creations as Pink Power Hats. In May, the knitters presented PPMM with 130 hats and checks totaling over a thousand dollars. We don't "sell" these pink symbols; we exchange them for checks for a minimum of \$25, payable to Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (or just PPMM, if you choose). All checks are forwarded to Planned Parenthood. Since May we have increased our contribution to 328 caps and I have a



few awaiting delivery. If you're interested in getting one for yourself or to give to another powerful woman, please email me at [barbara@1035b.com](mailto:barbara@1035b.com) and we can arrange an exchange. If you'd like a copy of the pattern so you can knit your own, you can find it on line or ask me for it. Wear your pink power hat with pride!



Barbara Bowden and Diane Rolfe

## **Welcome New Member**

**By Gail Schubert, Membership Chair**

When asked how long she has been aware of AAUW, Carolyn Schwartz answered, "Ever since my graduation from Wellesley." She and I were sitting at the same table at the Early Childhood Education event. When AAUW's co-sponsorship was announced, she said, "I want to join that." She is interested in good, reliable information on the issues we believe are important. As time allows, she hopes to participate in events and sections. Welcome, Carolyn.

# February 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 7p Mah Jong	6 10:30 <u>Board Meeting*</u>  1:30p Writers	7 .	8	9 10 Walkers	10
11	12 7:30p Drama Reading	13 10 Mediation  11:45 Family History  1:30p Mystery Books	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b>	15	16	17
18	19 <b>President's Day</b> 7p Mah Jong	20 1:30p Writers  2p Afternoon Books	21	22	23	24
25 5:00p: Wine Tasting	26 1:30p: Gadabouts	27 10 Meditation	28			<u>Authors Luncheon</u>

Board Meeting: \*The Branch board meeting will be in the Embarcadero Room of Rinconada Library. All branch members are welcome to attend. No General Meeting in February.

Refer to the member directory for section contact information or send an email to <mailto:sections@aauw-paloalto.org> for section details.

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## Authors' Luncheon Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_ Chinese Chicken Salad  
 Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_ Chopped Cobb Salad  
 Phone (for questions) \_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_ Mushroom Crepes  
 Amount enclosed (\$50 per person) \_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_ Shrimp Louis Salad

Mail a check payable to AAUW, with "Tech Trek Camp Hopper – Palo Alto" on the memo line. Send with reservation form by Feb. 28 to AAUW Palo Alto, P.O. Box 60653, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (Attn: B. Evans)

## Section News: Afternoon Books

The group chooses books, novels or non-fiction, based on literary prizes, curiosity, wanting to enlarge an understanding of historical events, or recommendations by members. A list is drawn up and members vote on the next reading selection. Some books provide a rich platform for robust discussion.

We meet in member's homes from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. The January selection is Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Kolbert's, The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History. The February read will be "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

In March, "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders" is the selection. Section Chair: Joyce Freiberg.

### February Section Meetings

Drama Reading: Meets Feb. 12, the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Section Chair: Millie Saxman

Family History: Meets Feb. 13, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, at 11:45 at Cibo's Restaurant, 3398 El Camino for a no-host lunch meeting with monthly historical themes. This month's topic is historical fiction set during WWII

Section Chair: Betsy Colby

Film Buffs: This section is reorganizing to reflect changing membership and movie scene.

Section Chair: Barbara Evans

Gadabouts: Meets Feb. 26, the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, at 1:30 p.m. to plan outings and adventures of all kinds. Meeting location is Misao Sakamoto's home in P.A. Section Chair: Scotty Martinson

Mah Jong: Meets Feb. 5 & 19. Beginners and advanced players are invited to play MahJong, a Chinese tile game. Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7:00 pm year round. Section Chair: Marcia Baugh

Meditation: Meets Feb. 13 & 27, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 10 a.m. Section Chair: Charlotte Jackson,

Mystery Books: Meets Feb. 13, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, at 1:30 pm at the home of Marcia Baughin P.A.. RSVP to Marcia (and learn topic.

Walkers: Meets Feb. 9, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, at 10:00 a.m. Walks vary from easy to somewhat challenging at parks and locations decided by the group.

Section Chair: Mary Ashley

Wine Tasting: Meets Feb. 25, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, from 5 – 7 PM. Members study and taste wines, domestic and imported, selected by members of the group. Spouses are welcome.

Section Chairs: Barbara Bowden & Carol Hansen

Writers: Meets Feb. 6 & Feb 20, meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month, at 1:30 p.m. Section Chair: Marcia Baugh



### **April 27-29, 2018 Irvine Marriott**

To register for State Convention and a Tech Trek Reunion, go online to [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org), select *California Perspective* from that page and then "read more" at the bottom. You will be given an option to download *Perspective* where pages 3-13 cover it all. Best price is available until March 8.

## **ICELAND MAKES EQUAL PAY THE LAW from Time, January 15, 2018**

On January 1, Iceland became the first country in the world to make it illegal to pay men more than women for doing the same job. The new law stipulates that all companies and government agencies employing more than 25 people will have to obtain government certification of their equal pay policies. Employers will face fines if they are found to be in violation. The government plans to eradicate the pay gap by 2022. Iceland has been ranked the most gender-equal country in the world by the World Economic Forum for 9 years in a row. Nearly half of the country's parliamentarians are women, and the country has had a female President for 20 of the last 50 years. As of 2015, 44% of boardroom executives in Iceland were female. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development contains 35 countries and their executives average 20% female.

### **Board Meeting Actions**

Business decisions at recent AAUW Board meetings included votes to:

- Continue to give Awards in the spring to Palo Alto middle school girls
- Join the League of Women Voters in their voter registration work, as possible
- Use Eventbrite website to RSVP for the Jan. 20 film screening
- Support the grant application by the Women's Committee of American Chemical Society to bring a play about women scientists to the Bay Area
- Elect Marcia Baugh, Barbara Evans and Linda Feeney to the nominating committee

## **A Common Refrain: We Need an Editor for *The Key***

If *The Key* is to be published in the future, an editor is needed. Since the Board's decision to publish only four issues each year, the task is not very difficult but must still be done at specific times. It's an important job because a newsletter links members together and can be a tool for member recruitment.

If we hire someone to produce a newsletter, a professional charges about \$1000 to prepare four issues, and postage is added to that. Another alternative is to simply produce 1-4 pages online with information about upcoming programs, schedule of Section meetings, and any announcements.

To volunteer, or to offer suggestions, please write [president@aauw-paloalto.org](mailto:president@aauw-paloalto.org)

## **RAISES COME WITH INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE,**

from California Today, NY Times January 5, 2018

Nearly 20% of California's work force received a raise as of January 1. The minimum wage is up to \$11.00/hour for most employers, giving about 2.5 million Californians a raise. The increase is part of the gradual phase-in to \$15.00/hour minimum wage. Workers earning the lowest wages will reach \$15.00/hour by 2023, with \$1.00 increase each year, until then.

## “Humanity Needs Dreamers”

Marie Skłodowska Curie’s inspirational story was told in the film *Humanity Needs Dreamers: A Visit with Marie Curie*. The film was the centerpiece of the AAUW event held at the Media Arts Center, Palo Alto High School.

As one of the world’s most renowned scientists, two-time Nobel Prize winner Marie Curie is best known for pioneering the field of radioactivity — but few understand the obstacles she faced just to get into the laboratory. What if she could tell her story?

Set in 1915, *Humanity Needs Dreamers* invited audiences to “meet” Marie Curie as she recollects her quest to isolate two elements — polonium and radium. From her childhood in Poland to groundbreaking research in France, Dr. Curie shared the struggles, failures, and triumphs behind her scientific discoveries and remarkable collaboration with companion scientist and husband Pierre Curie. It included descriptions of their research methods and the properties of the new elements as an immersive film experience.

Masterfully portrayed by living history scholar Susan Marie Frontczak (storysmith.org), *Humanity Needs Dreamers* is the cinematic version of the acclaimed one-woman theatrical show. The film recently won a top award at the RAW Science Film Festival.

Film director and producer, Jen Myronuk, hosted a post screening Q & A, including science trivia with LEGO Women of NASA and Rachel Ignotofsky’s *Women in Science* book as prizes donated by STEM on Stage. Information about Curie’s later life and the story of AAUW’s efforts to provide Marie Curie with a gram of radium in 1921 were among topics covered.

The event was the AAUW monthly meeting. It was co-sponsored by the Palo Alto PTA Council. Their leaders helped secure use of the lovely new Media Center and facilitated publicity.

Myronuk was joined on stage by Nora Brackbill, who is currently a physics Ph.D. candidate at Stanford. Nora attended AAUW Tech Trek STEM Camp for Girls at Stanford when she was a rising 8<sup>th</sup> grader in Monterey County. She shared details about her current research, things she



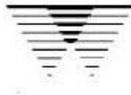
Nora Brackbill, Jen Myronuk, Marie Wolbach



Nora Brackbill, Jen Myronuk, MW

remembers most about Tech Trek and offered suggestions of ways we can encourage girls to see themselves as scientists.

The January 20 event was co-sponsored by the Palo Alto PTA Council. AAUW is grateful to their leaders for securing use of the new Media Center and facilitating publicity to teachers, parents and students in Palo Alto middle and high schools. For more information on the film, visit [humanityneedsdreamers.org](http://humanityneedsdreamers.org)



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PERIODICALS

Palo Alto Branch 2017-2018 Leadership Team: [president@aauw-paloalto.org](mailto:president@aauw-paloalto.org)  
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**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 13<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: Edit