

THE AAUW KEY

Palo Alto CA Branch

September 2019 • Volume 67 • Number 1

AAUW

Palo Alto Branch Fall Kickoff Meeting

Date: Saturday, September 7

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Place: Greene Middle School multipurpose room
750 N. California Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94303

A light continental brunch will be served. Come hear all about Tech Trek Camp Hopper direct from our Palo Alto Branch-sponsored campers, plus a former camper now a CIT.

Please email Marie Wolbach at program@aauw-paloalto.org or [click here](#) to RSVP on the website if you will be attending so that we may ensure having sufficient refreshments for all.



Tech Trek 2019 Campers L to R: Maya P., Betsabe A., Eliska I., Keila A., Maria I., Cristal L., and Leslie C. Alumna CIT at right.



Tech Trek Camp Grace Hopper 2019

-- Anna Zara

From July 14 to July 20, 80 rising 8th grade girls from around the Bay Area attended AAUW's Tech Trek at Stanford. This year our Branch sponsored seven girls from Palo Alto and East Palo Alto middle schools to attend.



L to R: Maya P., Betsabe A., Eliska I., Keila A., Maria I., Cristal L, and Leslie C.

A few of our Branch members were able to visit the camp this year, and they came away inspired by the enthusiasm of the campers and by the dedication of the camp staff and teachers.

As an added bonus one of our 2016 campers, Yasmine A., now a high school student, was a Junior Councilor at camp this year, so she was able to pay her Tech Trek experience forward to younger girls.

Thank you to all our members who support our camper sponsorship fund through attending our spring Author Luncheon, making direct donations and/or working on our Tech Trek committee.

If you would like to join in on the camper selection process for the 2020 camp year, please send an email to aauw.pa.techtrek@gmail.com. We will have our committee kickoff meeting in December and we interview the campers in March.

To make a contribution to our Branch's Tech Trek efforts please make your checks payable to "AAUW-CA SPF" and write "Palo Alto – TT Camp Hopper" in the memo line. Then mail you check to me, Anna Zara, at this address:

4 E Creek Pl
Menlo Park, CA 94025



2019 Palo Alto Tech Trek Camper Notes of Gratitude

-- Anna Zara

Our 21st Tech Trek camp at Stanford was a success and our seven rising 8th grade campers came away from their week of camp energized and very grateful for the opportunities we provided them. What follows are excerpts from the notes the girls wrote to us that will give you a flavor of their camp experience – their full letters will be available for all to read at our Fall Kickoff meeting on Saturday, Sept. 7.



TT Committee members Lori Van Houten and Natalie McClure with Palo Alto campers at the pre-camp IBC camper orientation

Maya P., Fletcher Middle School:

“Thank you so much for giving me this incredible experience. I loved it so much, and I’m so grateful.

My favorite activity was the Mad City Money simulation. It was such an exciting way to learn about managing a budget”

Leslie C., Fletcher Middle School:

“I have learned so much in the past week. For example, in my core class, Cyber Security, I learned about the different types of malware and how some companies have been hacked because of lack of security. The activities were also really fun and educational. [...] I also loved the field trip where we dismantled a server. It was so much fun to learn about what’s inside a server”

Cristal B., Ravenswood Middle School:

“I will forever appreciate this unique experience! I never thought that I’d be able to learn to find finger prints and even lip prints (I’m in Forensic Science)! [...] I really appreciate all of this and the fact that you’ve given me more curiosity to explore the wonderful world of STEAM!!!”

Eliska I., JLS Middle School:

“One of my favorite activities was chemistry. I was fascinated by the reaction the iodine and starch had when mixed with Vitamin C, and how the amount of Vitamin C in a solution would affect the outcome. I also enjoyed making “rockets” in engineering because I loved to see how the capsule would fly into the air.”

Maria I., Ravenswood Middle School:

“I Liked Professional Women’s Night. Jeanne Warner, Security Manager, had a lot of jobs. Her first with Dell. At every new job she would say “give me three weeks and I’ll know everything”. I also know that what I learned in Tech Trek is going to come in handy.”

Betsabe A., Greene Middle School:

“Astronomy Night was exciting because I was excited because I was able to see Saturn and Jupiter. Jupiter was pretty to see and we saw the 4 biggest moons of Jupiter. One of the people that owned a telescope even let me take a picture from the telescope with my camera!”

Keila A., Ravenswood Middle School:

“Before this camp I had a lot of doubt in myself because I am female. But now I feel like I can do anything! (That is humanly possible of course.) And it’s crazy how ONE Week can change someone’s perspective & make new friends!”



AAUW Palo Alto: Past and Future

AAUW Palo Alto is celebrating its 90th anniversary this fiscal year. These have been eventful and productive years. The branch has received awards at state and national levels for generous donations to the national Educational Foundation of AAUW, for important programming and membership growth, and for producing books such as "If You Want to Save the Environment, Start at Home." That booklet was published years before environmental concerns became a focus in the country.

Currently we have been most active in our flagship Tech Trek program. We raise money for the camp scholarships through donations and by attending an Annual Authors' Lunch.

Members treasure the multi-generational membership, as we learn from each other. Our Sections foster deep friendships. We have recently welcomed new, young members who contribute energy to our programs such as Tech Trek.

However, we are in need of leadership to maintain the branch and its positive influences. When leaders of organizations are asked how they got involved, the most common answer is, "Someone asked me." Those of us now serving on the Board ARE asking you. You have an opportunity to enjoy the friendship and fun of working together in

support of women's projects. As a first step, offer to help with one of the branch activities. Or talk with others about sharing a board job.

There have been suggestions that our branch disband because we lack leadership. What would the consequences of that be? We would not greet each other at meetings. Sections would not have an "umbrella" and maintaining those groups would be difficult. Fewer dollars would be donated to the national fellowships fund. We would no longer be allowed to annually send seven girls to AAUW's Tech Trek program.

Our situation is not dire but it is serious. Please consider stepping up to leadership by sending an email to president@aauw-paloalto.org or by telling your Section Chair that you would take a position on the 2020-21 Board. Terms of office are July 1 to June 30. We invite you to join us for lunch at any of our board meetings. Dates are listed below.

In the year to come we will celebrate both the 90th anniversary of the Palo Alto branch and will work with others such as the League of Women Voters to celebrate the ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the vote.

Our first branch meeting this year features the young women we sponsored at Tech Trek. We look forward to seeing you at Greene Middle School (formerly Jordan) on September 7 at 10:00 a.m.

---Several Board Members

September, 2019

Invitation to Board Meetings in 2019-2020

Board of Directors meetings are usually on the first Tuesday of each month in the 11th floor meeting space at Channing House in Palo Alto. There's an optional "Bring Your Brown Bag Lunch" policy because the meetings begin at **11:30 a.m.**

Dates in 2019

September 10: Note week change.
October 1
November 5
December 3

Dates in 2020

January 7
February 4
March 3
April 7
May 5
June 2

Coming up this fall:

LWV Program on New Voting Procedure

AAUW Palo Alto is co-sponsoring the September program of the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto. This event features Rachel H. Jung, an election specialist and Outreach Coordinator with the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters. She will educate attendees about the Voters Choice Act (VCA) and how it will affect them. The new procedure goes into effect with the March 2020 primary.

The program is "Goodbye Precincts, Hello Easy Voting: The Voters Choice Act." It will be held on Thursday, September 26, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road, PA. It is free and open to the public.

Lunch with AAUW Grant Recipients studying in N. CA

Saturday, October 5, 2019

Noon-3:00 p.m.

Basque Cultural Center

599 Railroad Ave., So. San Francisco

Cost: \$45

Reservations by Sep. 20 via the [aauw-ca website](#) or directly [HERE](#)

Did you know? Since the first year of AAUW Tech Trek STEM Camps for Girls in 1998, approximately 17,000 young women in the nation have completed a week on a campus doing hands-on STEM projects.

Save the Date: April 18, 2020 for our Author's Lunch to benefit Tech Trek.

September, 2019

SECTION SCHEDULE

Please refer you your Branch directory for section contact details.



AFTERNOON BOOKS: Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:00 at the homes of section members. For information about the next book selection and meeting location, email Joyce Freiberg

DRAMA READING: Meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Ashley, 3114 Cowper Street. 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 2nd Tuesday at Cibo's Restaurant, 3398 El Camino at 11:45 a.m. for a no-host lunch meeting with monthly historical themes. Please contact Betsy Colby with any questions.

GADABOUTS: Meets year-round on the 4th Monday at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Misao Sakamoto, to plan adventures and outings of all kinds. For further info call Scotty Martinson.

MAH JONG: meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 p.m. at members' homes. Beginners and advanced players are invited to play Mah Jong, a Chinese tile game. For further info and locations call Marcia Baugh.

MEDITATION: Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 10 a.m., at the home of Marcia Baugh, 490 Gary Court. All are welcome. Come and learn about meditation. For further info call 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.

WALKERS: Mary Ashley has been traveling a lot and cannot always plan on walking. Please call Barbara Evans if you are interested in continuing the walks. Barbara Evans,

WINE TASTING: Meets the 4th Sunday of the month from 5 to 7 p.m. imported, selected by the group. Spouses are welcome. For further info call Carol Hansen or Barbara Bowden.

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 have written. In this way we are encouraged to keep up our writing. Please contact Marcia Baugh.

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Mah Jong 7:00 p.m. Labor Day	3 Writers 1:30 p.m.	4	5	6	7 General Meeting With Campers
8	9 Drama Reading 7:30 p.m.	10 Meditation 10 a.m. Board Mtg 11:30 Family History 11:45 Mystery Books 1:30 p.m.	11	12	13 Walkers 10:00 a.m.? Call Barbara Evans 650-856-0618	14
15	16 Mah Jong 7:00 p.m.	17 Writers 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Books 2 p.m.	18	19	20	21
22 Wine Tasting 5-7 p.m.	23 Gadabouts 1:30 p.m.	24 Meditation 10 a.m.	25	26	27	28
29 .	30					



The Key
AAUW
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PERIODICALS

Palo Alto Branch 2019-2020

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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 13th of the month at: key@aauw-paloalto.org
Section Calendar items may be sent to the Calendar Editor by the 10th 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.