

THE AAUW KEY

Palo Alto CA Branch

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Branch Members Star in Meeting on March 16

All Palo Alto AAUW members are invited to participate in the program at the next branch meeting, to be held on Zoom. In recognition of Women's History Month, a meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16 will feature stories about admired women as presented by branch members. Each member wishing to participate will speak for two (2) minutes about a woman she admires. It may be a family member, a friend, an unsung heroine, or a famous woman.

Members who do not choose to share stories are equally welcome to join the meeting. They will enjoy hearing about outstanding women of the past or present, and learn why the honored women were chosen by AAUW members. The Board encourages attendees to bring snacks and a beverage of choice to enjoy during the meeting. Anna Zara will be in charge of Zoom site management. The Zoom link will be sent to all members the day before the meeting. Members simply need to click on the link and follow directions. Watch for a message from the branch email address:

aauw.paloalto.org@gmail.com.

Branch History Completed

The History of Palo Alto AAUW 1960–2020 was completed in September. COVID19 gave me the time to go through past records to finish my task as Branch Historian. Thanks to good friend, Branch treasurer and past president Ellie Mansfield, who acted as proof reader and printer, the history is done. If you wish a copy, please contact Ellie who will send you an email copy. A copy will go to Palo Alto's historian who already has an AAUW file. Thanks to all of you past presidents, board members and general members for your memories.

Now that we had to clear out our records from the Baptist Church, I would very much like to find a new home for three 2-drawer files and about 7 banker boxes of documents. My family would like them elsewhere.

Please let me know if you have room or you know somewhere safe we could store these—with access as necessary. Thanks in advance.

Marcia Baugh, Branch Historian *(for those in the know: yes, there are no dragons in the history.)*

Farewell to Charlotte Jackson

Long-time leader in AAUW Palo Alto, Charlotte Jackson, is soon moving to Fresno where her son and family live. To wish her well, friends may meet her near the picnic tables at Hoover Park, 2901 Cowper St. on March 20. Stop by, masked, anytime between 1:00-3:00 p.m.

The Branch wishes to extend Condolences to member Nana Spiridon at the recent death of her husband, Alex. They were long-time Supper Club participants.



2021 Virtual Tech Trek Update

Virtual Tech Trek is designed to provide campers with exposure to computer science and engineering, along with workshops designed to explore individual STEM specialties more deeply using a hands-on or interactive approach. Hands-on activities, inspirational speakers, and interactive workshops help to make STEM subjects fun as well as educational. Trained instructors and coaching staff including near-peer Tech Trek alumnae, work alongside credentialed teachers, and women in STEM-related careers.

This is a week-long virtual camp for rising 8th grade girls. The camp is centered on a morning project-based robotics/engineering/coding class that meets daily and results in a personalized creation by week's end. After lunch, the campers hear from inspirational women for an hour, then participate in one or more 90-minute hands-on or interactive science, technology, engineering, and math workshops to encourage fun while learning. They can return for evening workshops with girls from another country, social activities, or even parent sessions.

YouTube will be used to provide a wide array of information on the 2021 Virtual Camps. Click [HERE](#) to subscribe to the 2021 Virtual Tech Trek channel.

When the time is right, our goal is a return in 2022 to the residential camp model. To ensure the well-being of our members, campers, staff, and volunteers, decisions will always be made based on national, state, and local health and safety requirements.

Volunteers Needed for Tech Trek: Apply Now!

While our branch has decided not to select campers this year, there are plenty of ways to be engaged with Tech Trek this summer for any and all who may be interested. There are volunteer jobs as Camp coaches, instructors, an assistant director, and logistics coordinators are needed. Work for one or more camps! Click [HERE](#) for the volunteer application.

National Vote on Membership Requirements

Is this the time to admit everyone into AAUW membership? You will soon be asked that question and urged to vote on the issue.

Members will receive information about the proposed changes to AAUW membership requirements. Electronic voting will begin on April 7.

This issue has come before the membership repeatedly and the vote has always been very close. Through the years, incremental changes to the requirements have been made.

The current campaign is driven by the issue of equity. AAUW advocates for women to be admitted to colleges and graduate programs, to have seats in boardrooms, to receive equitable pay, or make their own choices about medical issues. Yet, membership requirements are rather closed.

Some foundations consider AAUW's membership requirement of a college degree, at some level, as discrimination. For that reason they refuse to fund grant proposals from AAUW.

Discussion among members is invited. If there is time at the March 16 zoom meeting, attendees will be invited to share their opinions. About March 18, an online discussion will begin so all branch members have an opportunity to express opinions.

Membership News

National AAUW has raised dues \$3 beginning with the 2021-2022 membership year. In February, Palo Alto Branch Board voted to absorb that increase, so membership cost (national, state and local branch) will remain the same for the upcoming year. Watch for the dues notice in May.

Our branch has eighteen Honorary Life Members who, after 50 years of membership, no longer pay dues. They will be joined in 2021-22 by two more of our members, Katherine Mize and Nancy Saperstein. Congratulations to them on their long involvement with AAUW.