

## September Hybrid AAUW Kick-off with guest speaker



## Dr. Teresa Nguyen



Sunday, September 24, 2023, 3:00 pm-4:30 pm

Sequoia Room, Los Altos Community Center, 95 Hillview Ave, Los Altos

Join us to meet the Tech Trek 2023 campers from Los Altos, Mountain View, and Palo Alto middle schools and our National Conference of College Women Student Leaders – Skye Bridges and Molara Mabogunje.

Hear from **Dr. Teresa Nguyen**, Resident Physician in Anesthesiology at Stanford Medicine. She is passionate about medical innovation and is committed to advancing science education and mentorship. Teresa is deeply passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. She is the founder of the *Lighthouse Initiative*, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide resources and mentorship to first-generation, low-income, and minority individuals to succeed in college. Moreover, she is a past AAUW Funds Fellow and a helicopter pilot!

Don't miss meeting members from both AAUW branches, now AAUW Silicon Valley.  
Your friends and community members are invited.

Enjoy refreshments while hearing from a talented woman who can show  
our Tech Trek girls what is possible for their future.



## Welcome to AAUW Silicon Valley



The board of directors for AAUW Silicon Valley extends a warm welcome to every member of our merged branches. We hope each member's summer was relaxing and full of interesting activities.

Our membership directors have made sure that you renewed successfully so that we have 95 continuing members for 2023-24. Of those, 32 are Lifetime or Honorary Lifetime members. Hurrah! If you haven't yet renewed, we urge you to do so as soon as possible.

Since we're just getting started with the details for a new branch, expect to see and authorize a budget for 2023-34 by the end of September. At the same time, make it your resolution to participate in the events planned for the year. Help empower women and girls in their educational opportunities and invest in their success in the workplace, community, and home.

Interest groups from both branches have been hit hard by the past three Covid years. We hope to rejuvenate groups whether by meeting online or by rotating homes. See the list of current groups and possible groups to join in this newsletter.

On September 24, 3-4:15 pm, you will hear from Teresa Nguyen, a former AAUW Funds recipient, now an anesthesiology resident at Stanford – an excellent model of what women can do in science field careers. You will meet the Tech Trek girls from Palo Alto, Los Altos, and Mountain View middle schools who attended camp at CSU Sonoma or participated in the third year of virtual Tech Trek (for more see the Tech Trek article). Also meet the young women we sent to the National Conference for College Women Students Leaders (NCCWSL). (See cover page for details.)

On January 22, 2024, plan to attend the annual event to mark the anniversary of the SCOTUS Roe v Wade decision. We will hear about the status of reproductive rights in other states and what you can do to help those whose rights have been taken away.

In February 2024 members will be asked for generous donations to help middle school girls attend another successful Tech Trek camp.

In March we will hear from Jennifer Wolf, a senior Stanford lecturer of education, who will discuss the renewed push to ban books from U.S. schools and libraries. Book banning is a dilemma even for some California school districts. AAUW CA Public Policy is working with Equity California this year on its project to help women campaign for school boards who hold AAUW's mission of diversity, equity, and inclusion in education – including keeping all books available to any student who wants to read them. If you would like to join the AAUW CA webinar explaining the project on September 21, 7 pm, [register here](#). (See Book Ban article for details.)

Also, in the spring of 2024 plan to participate in AAUW CA Lobby Days and participate in the opportunity to meet with legislators to promote AAUW CA supported legislation.

At the end of our first year as AAUW Silicon Valley, we'll get together for a time to socialize before year two, where we anticipate reaching out and sustaining our visibility in the community.

Contact any board member with your ideas for speakers and events:

Allyson Johnson – Co-President,

[allysonyj@hotmail.com](mailto:allysonyj@hotmail.com)

Vicki Reeder - Co-President,

[msvickir@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msvickir@sbcglobal.net)

Claire Noonan – Finance, [c.noonan@yahoo.com](mailto:c.noonan@yahoo.com)

Mary Ashley – Finance, [meashley@pacbell.net](mailto:meashley@pacbell.net)

Susan Ware – Membership Finance,  
[sware1223@gmail.com](mailto:sware1223@gmail.com)

Mary Morrison - Membership Finance,  
[marykmorrison1029@gmail.com](mailto:marykmorrison1029@gmail.com)

Anna Zara - Director (IT), [anna@zenglish.net](mailto:anna@zenglish.net)

Amy Hom – Director (Public Policy),  
[amyhom99@gmail.com](mailto:amyhom99@gmail.com)

## **ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TECH TREK SUMMER!** by Vicki Reeder and Natalie McClure



Twelve local Los Altos and Mountain View girls and six local Palo Alto girls had a unique and engaging experience with Tech Trek in-person and virtual camps in July, thanks to your generous support! The girls were nominated by their science and math teachers from three Palo Alto or three Los Altos and Mountain View middle schools.

Camp Johnson at CA State University Sonoma took place the week of July 23-28. The camp is named for Katherine Johnson, a groundbreaking Black woman mathematician. Ms. Johnson mastered complex manual calculations and helped pioneer the use of computers to perform tasks at NASA. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015 by President Barack Obama.

From Los Altos and Mountain View the five girls who went to in-person Tech Trek at Sonoma State are Rachel Kim (Egan), Leah Jimenez, Maritza Guido Valdivia (Crittenden), Eliana Tekie, and Dagny Yavitch (Blach). The five girls from Palo Alto schools were Simren Arora (Fletcher), Maryel Elizondo Salgado, Kamilla Modesty Larios (Greene), and Sonika Gadgil, Shrishti Sinha (JLStanford).

Molly Mudgett, a former Palo Alto camper and counselor from Camp Hopper (Stanford), took time away from her job at Apple to come and teach a 5-day core class at Sonoma. Among other interactive sessions, girls explored to understand

water surface tension and built a wearable tech device as their final project.

Camper Eliana Tekie wrote, “I realized I want a career in STEM, more importantly, that I CAN have a career in STEM. I know now that there is a place for black girls like me in science and math, and I wouldn’t have recognized that without Tech Trek. Thank you for nominating me.”

For Virtual Tech Trek, also July 23-28, the students were provided a box of supplies prior to the program and then worked in virtual teams over Zoom to do the experiments and build their projects.

Palo Alto student Lisa Yang (Fletcher), Mountain View students Fiona Lee, Julia Mohan, Divya Sethuraman (Crittenden), and Los Altos students Madison Louie, Seona Sheth (Egan), Alex Pena, Zahra Mottaghian (Blach), completed the five-day virtual camp and made video reports of their projects, describing what they learned and who their “stemist” heroes are.

“The opportunity to attend virtual Tech Trek was amazing,” wrote Julia Mohan in her thank-you note. “Before Tech Trek, I didn’t know how to code, and I was scared to try because I thought I would be bad at it. Now I’ve realized that coding is really fun, and definitely something I want to pursue in my future.” Julia’s words are repeated in various forms by all the girls attending Tech Trek as they reflected on their experiences. See the videos describing their final projects: Palo Alto <https://flip.com/mixtapes/+dxedft6n> and LA-MV <https://flip.com/mixtapes/+qadm0uxt>

Thanks as always to the faithful committees that interviewed the applicants and selected the girls. LA-MV Tech Trek committee is Marge Bruno, Claire Noonan, Margie Gray, Rory Kaplan, and coordinator, Vicki Reeder. The Palo Alto committee is Marie Wolbach, founder of Tech Trek, Anna Zara, Lori Van Houten, Natalie McClure, Linda Feeney, Marcia Baugh, and Betsy Colby.

Most of all, the committees give a thousand thanks to all of you who support this outstanding program.

Photo PA (top): Simren Arora, Sonika Gadgil, Kamilla Larios, Maryel Elizondo Salgado, Shrishti Sinha (alphabetical list)  
Photo LA-MV (bottom): Leah Jimenez, Rachel Kim, Eliana Tekie, Maritza Guido Valdivia, Dagy Yavitch (alphabetical list)



### **Did You Remember Pride Month?** by Kim Talbert, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee (revised)

AAUW CA encourages diversity, equity, and inclusion. Recall that until 1966 it was illegal to serve alcohol to a gay person, and until 1969, homosexuality was a criminal offense. On the morning of June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn for the sale of illegal alcohol. As word got out, thousands of protestors came out and demonstrated for six days. These protests sparked the beginning of the Gay Liberation Movement. Since June 1970 Pride Month honors the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ+) people.

This year AAUW CA is supporting the “School Board Project” to promote leadership on school

boards that don’t accept the ban on books about marginalized groups such as those dealing with gender identity, sexual orientation, and race.

Do you know that in 2016, President Obama established the first LGBTQ+ National Park in the 7.7 acres surrounding The Stonewall Inn? In 2019, the city of New York honored LGBTQ+ activists, Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, with a statue for their activism. According to the City of New York, this was the “first permanent, public artwork recognizing transgender women in the world.”

Since the Stonewall Uprising, there have been many significant advances for the LGBTQ+ community, like same-sex marriage and the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009. There is still a long way to go for equitable treatment for all, but that’s why it’s exciting to work with an organization like AAUW on its mission of achieving a more equitable society. See the article that follows for more information about AAUW CA efforts to support these marginalized groups.

The Library of Congress has compiled a wonderful resource guide. [LGBTQ+ Studies: A Resource Guide](#) serves as an introduction into the excellent collection of LGBTQ+ resources available at the Library of Congress.

### **School Board Project** by Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy

In a 2023 survey, our membership made it clear that they were alarmed by the nationwide movement to ban books and censor curricula in K-12 schools, particularly as this censorship denies students’ access to historically accurate information pertaining to marginalized groups.

This is perhaps unsurprising as AAUW members’ concern with access to high-quality education has been long standing. When AAUW was founded in 1881, **its stated purpose was** “for practical

education work, for collection and publication of statistical and other information concerning education, and in general, for the maintenance of high standards of education.”

Today, AAUW California continues to support this purpose in **the second pillar of our Public Policy Priorities**, “Equal Access to Quality Public Education for all Students.” Under this second pillar an important bullet point, “Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information” was added. In furtherance of that goal, the Public Policy Committee has established “The School Board Project” (SBP) designed to ensure school boards up and down the state include members who are committed to “the maintenance of high standards of education” for all students – including access to diverse and historically accurate information.

Whether you are aware of problematic censorship happening in your district, you fear it may be coming, or you just want to learn more about what AAUW California is doing, we hope you will **join us virtually on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm** for the presentation of “Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!” that will explain the project and how all AAUW California members can help. Representatives from our collaborative partners will attend to help you understand why this project is so important. Members from the **League of Women Voters** will provide guidance on how to speak out effectively and civilly at school board meetings. We hope to see you there.

## News from AAUW CA and National



**National:** Women’s Equality Day on August 26 commemorated the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which gave women the right to vote—in theory. Of course, many women, particularly women of color, continued to be shut out of the voting booth for decades. One hundred and three years later, we are *still* fighting for equal voting rights, as disenfranchisement

efforts have picked up steam across the country. Please do your part to commemorate Women’s Equality Day and take action [HERE](#). Tell your elected officials to support the resolution to affirm the ERA. It’s still waiting to be published as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution.

AAUW’s policy work connects and rallies advocates at the local, state, national, and global levels to empower women and girls. We use lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women. In 2022-23, AAUW dispersed \$6.3M for women pursuing advanced studies or organizing community action projects. Your daughter or granddaughter can apply NOW for funding through AAUW’s Fellowships and Grants program. Apply at [aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants](http://aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants).

**AAUW CA:** In August, more than 50 volunteers for state committees gathered in San Jose to jointly plan their goals. Our branch member, Amy Hom, is co-director with Melissa Maceyko, Long Beach, for AAUW-CA Public Policy. Stay tuned for new programs and opportunities for our branch!

Tech Trek had another successful summer: eight in-person camps, one virtual camp, 110 branches participating, more than 800 campers, and 250 volunteers. Hats off to the Tech Trek leadership, camp staff, volunteers, curious campers, and parents who made it all happen. Be sure to read our article and watch the videos about our own Tech Trek campers.



## Be Informed: LACC Friday AM Programs



As one of 17 organizational members of [Los Altos Community Coalition](#), a broad-based politically neutral collaboration, AAUW Silicon Valley invites you to participate in biweekly LACC programs on alternate Fridays from 8:30-9:30 am via Zoom until further notice. To receive notices of each event, please email [info@losaltoscommunitycoalition.org](mailto:info@losaltoscommunitycoalition.org) requesting to be added to the emailing list. As you may know, the mission of LACC is to provide information and education to our community on future trends, policy proposals, and best practices to promote good government and civil discourse. If you are unable to join for any “live” event, all programs including audience questions and answers are recorded and available a few days after each event at <https://tinyurl.com/laccyoutube>, thanks to Joe Beninato. Please subscribe to the YouTube channel. You won’t receive additional emails, unless you request notification when new videos are posted.

Our Fall program will begin September 8, 8:30-9:30 am via Zoom – A Conversation with Los Altos Vice Mayor Jonathan Weinberg, assuming he isn’t called into court that day (his “day job” is real estate attorney).

Recent program topics included a session on Emergency Preparedness lessons learned from last winter’s emergencies on May 19. On June 2, City Manager Gabe Engeland explained the new zero-based budget process. Council member and past mayor Neysa Fligor spoke on June 16. A recap report was presented by the consulting firm to the City Council on the feasibility of a downtown theater with Board President Vicki Reeder and Executive and Artistic Director Gary Landis on June 30. As noted above, all videos are available for viewing on the LACC YouTube channel.

If you have ideas for future programs and/or suggestions for speakers, please email them to [info@losaltoscommunitycoalition.org](mailto:info@losaltoscommunitycoalition.org).

Many thanks to Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation for their ongoing financial and in kind support of LACC.

## VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION



Please join us and learn about becoming a mentor and/or a tutor in the Mountain View and Los Altos public schools. Help a local student to a brighter future!

- Wed., Sept. 13, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
- MVLA District Office Conference Room, 1299 Bryant Ave., Mountain View
- To register: [www.mentortutorconnection.org/events](http://www.mentortutorconnection.org/events)
- or email [programs@mentortutorconnection.org](mailto:programs@mentortutorconnection.org)

## Interest Groups – Are You Interested?

Here is a list of Interest Groups in which our branches have participated in the past. If you are interested in visiting or joining a section connect with the group contact. For forming an interest group contact a board member. Add a missing group? Contact Claire Noonan at [c.noonan@yahoo.com](mailto:c.noonan@yahoo.com).

**Are you a crafts aficionado?** Knit? Crochet? Embroidery? Needlepoint? Crewel? Appliqué? Macramé? Join the group to sew and chat on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 10:30 am. Contact Marge Shively, [margeshively@yahoo.com](mailto:margeshively@yahoo.com).

**Would you like to have lunch with AAUW members after [Morning Forum](#)?** Meet at the Morning Forum. After, choose a place for lunch. 3rd Tuesday of the month. Contact Julie Dalrymple, [wellsdalrymple@yahoo.com](mailto:wellsdalrymple@yahoo.com).

**Are you a Mah Jong lover?** Of interest to members of both branches, beginners and advanced players are invited to play Mah Jong, the Chinese tile game. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm at members' homes. For information about the next section meeting contact Marcia Baugh at [marciabaugh@att.net](mailto:marciabaugh@att.net).

**Do you love theatre? Drama Reading** has always been of interest to members from both branches. It is designed for around the table play reading. Meets on the 2nd Monday of the month from October to May at a member's home. For information about time of the next meeting contact Millie Saxman at [milliesaxman@gmail.com](mailto:milliesaxman@gmail.com).

**Is the afternoon your favorite reading time?** **Afternoon Books** is for you. Members meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2 – 4pm. Members choose novels or non-fiction, those based on literary prizes, or books that help to illuminate an historical event. Lists of books to read are made and selected for the next month or two. Contact Joyce Freiberg for information at [jraven@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jraven@sbcglobal.net).

**Mystery Readers?** Silicon Valley and Sunnyvale-Cupertino members are invited to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1pm. This group picks an author, and members read one or more books of their choice. One member reports on the author. Contact Julie Dalrymple for information and location at [wellsdalrymple@yahoo.com](mailto:wellsdalrymple@yahoo.com).

or

**Mystery Books?** An author/s or topic is pre-selected for discussion every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Join even if you haven't read the book. Contact Marcia Baugh at [marciabaugh@att.net](mailto:marciabaugh@att.net).

**Bridge anyone?** Many groups for players in our new AAUW. Some are mentioned here. Others will be added.

*Daytime Duplicate Bridge:* Second Friday, 1:30 – 4 pm; Third Monday, 1:30 - 4 pm. For information contact Hilda Crady at [mhcrady@yahoo.com](mailto:mhcrady@yahoo.com).

*Morning Bridge:* 1st Thursday, 10 am - noon. For information contact Val Hatton at [jvalhat@yahoo.com](mailto:jvalhat@yahoo.com).

*Couples Party Bridge:* 3rd Thursday at 1pm. The group is mostly still couples, but often needs subs. For information contact Marge Shively at [margeshively@yahoo.com](mailto:margeshively@yahoo.com).

