



BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

<http://sanmateo-ca.aauw.net>

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President's Message

Maureen Buchner

Last year we were able to emerge from our cocoons and bring our AAUW programs and interest groups back to life and IN person. Below is a brief synopsis of what we accomplished last year.

Thanks to the Scholarship Committee headed by Cindy Robbins-Roth, we awarded more and larger scholarships from our Ethel Gayman endowment for local college women.

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) came back into the spotlight with in-person meetings in Maryland. Our branch partnered with Skyline College's Women's Mentoring and Leadership Academy to send 2 students to AAUW National's program. Their leader, Professor Danielle Powell, also attended.

We shared our general monthly meetings with the Mid-Peninsula Branch and look forward to collaborating with them to present more mission-based programs. We met Sheriff Christina Corpus, learned about our county's new satellite housing center for the unhoused and heard the author Judge LaDoris Cordell speak about her book, *Her Honor*.

this summer the Trek Trek Committee found eight spaces at two on-campus sites and also sponsored three virtual campers from home. This fantastic camp celebrated 25 years this summer.

Plan now to meet our local Tech Trek STEM camp scholarship recipients on September 9, at the Redwood Shores Library meeting room at 1:30 p.m. These rising eighth graders are eager to share their new experiences. You will not want to miss the opportunity to meet these remarkable girls. The library is easy to find: heading South on 101, take the Ralston exit and head East to 399 Marine Parkway.

Please note that the 2023-2024 Budget, approved by the Board of Directors, is included in this edition.

San Mateo Branch 2023 Calendar

Sept 9

Tech Trek *Ice Cream Social*
399 Marine Pkwy, Redwood City, CA
1:30 pm

Zoom Meetings

Your board has voted to continue our Zoom membership for 2023-2024. Should the pandemic rear its ugly head again, we are all set to hold meetings online. The Board of Directors meetings will continue on Zoom the first Thursday of the month at 10 am. Contact Maureen Buchner for a link to the meeting. You are all welcome.

International Literacy Day, September 8

The United Nations' (UN) International Literacy Day annually falls on September 8 to raise people's awareness of and concern for literacy issues in the world.

According to UNESCO, about 774 million adults lack the minimum literacy skills. One in five adults is still not literate, and two-thirds of them are women. About 75 million children are out of school, and many more attend irregularly or drop out. However, literacy is also a cause for celebration on the day because there are nearly four billion literate people in the world.

With the threat of book banning by some states, it's crucial that everyone understands the importance of literacy and free access to written material.

TTAG

What? More indecipherable initials? TTAG stands for *Tech Trek Alumni Group*. Ananya Govina, a senior at Aragon High School, has offered to found a chapter for a combined San Mateo and Mid-Peninsula Alumnae group. This will continue our mission of promoting STEM education and equality for STEM professionals. TTAG members often assist branches, become online social coaches for Virtual Stem Camp, help as on-campus junior counselors at Tech Trek camps, and mentor incoming campers who are middle school students.

Our 2023 Ethel Gayman Scholarship Recipients!

Our Scholarship Committee did a fantastic job of evaluating and interviewing 13 candidates who met our criteria of maintaining a high GPA (over 3.5), showing financial need, and planning to enroll in an accredited bachelor degree program or other 3-4 year program by September 2023. We were able to award \$6,000 scholarships to 8 outstanding students.

The committee was looking for those students who really stood out based on their personal statements, the recommendations, and their interviews with us. While all 13 students we interviewed were impressive, our 8 finalists clearly stood out.

Many of the candidates were very interested to learn about AAUW's history of supporting equity for women and girls and we may have recruited a few new members! They were also interested in the varied paths our committee members took in their lives and careers.

Skyline Community College:

Fatima Gursul: San Jose State University School of Social Work with the goal of graduating in 3.5 years with a BA and a Masters, becoming a licensed social worker. Fatima grew up in Paraguay and came to the U.S. as an adult. Once Fatima came to the Skyline campus, she joined the Women's Mentoring & Leadership Academy and worked in the Counseling Office. The idea of helping others find their way through big challenges stuck with her. Fatima says her 9-year-old daughter inspired her to show that mom could make it through college.

Paulina Mariana Miranda: UC Berkeley, majoring in Sociology. Her ultimate goal is getting her law degree and work as an immigration and family lawyer. Paulina came to the U.S. at age 5, and faced racial discrimination from an adult in elementary school. With her mom's encouragement, she shared her experience with the principal and asked for help. Paulina says that ever since then, she knew she could speak up for herself and others, and has found it very rewarding to do so.

Chuyun Wang: UC Berkeley, majoring in Molecular and Cell Biology. She was inspired by Women's History month to work toward adding Physics/Astrophysics as a double major. Right now, her goal is to become a neurosurgeon, inspired by her father's death from brain cancer. Chuyun took working remotely to an extreme, participating in her first-year classes while still in China. She moved alone to the U.S. to continue her higher education. Once on campus at Skyline College, she dove into participating as fully as possible.

Alysia Tanimura: UC Berkeley, majoring in Data Science. Throughout her time at Skyline College, Alysia has been very active in the campus Women in Science & Engineering Represent (WISER) and other campus organizations. Some of her experiences on campus were incorporated into her honors research project on sexism and the gender gap within STEM, all of which keeps her passionate about working toward equity for women both in education and career opportunities.

College of San Mateo:

Jane Seini Petelo: UC San Diego, majoring in Urban Studies & Design. At CSM, Seini was a Cognitive Sciences major. Her goal is to become an urban planner with a strong social justice perspective - designing cities and towns that are safe, walkable and support meaningful connections between the residents. She came to the U.S. from Tonga, and lives in a multigenerational home. Inspired by her lived experiences, Seini became a mental health peer educator on campus.

Denise Steffen: San Francisco State University's College of Science and Technology, majoring in Civil Engineering, aiming for a masters degree. Her love of math, physics and structural engineering was nurtured by time spent around her grandfather and interning in his structural/foundation construction company. Denise was inspired by her own experiences to be an active peer counselor and sponsor in the community and on campus. Her ultimate goal is building bridges and roads, though she also came to love teaching and tutoring other students in her favorite fields.

Meghan Wright: UC Irvine, majoring in Psychological Sciences with plans for a master's degree. Meghan worked for many years as a nanny and mother's assistant, where she became aware of the impact of autism spectrum disorders on child development and families. Her own childhood and adult experiences, coupled with the families she met, forged her passion for helping special needs children be seen as whole individuals who deserve to be fully integrated into our society without stigma.

Cañada Community College:

Jacquelin Mendez: California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo, majoring in psychology with a focus on industrial/organizational Psychology. Based on her life experiences, community volunteer activities and job at the campus food banks, Jacquelin plans to use her education to bring much-needed resources back to her community, including support for mental health needs and nurturing the brain development of healthy, happy children.

Programs, We Want Programs!

San Mateo AAUW wants to present programs that interest our members as well as following our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. If you have an idea for a program, please contact our President, Maureen Buchner, with your ideas.

September 2023 Interest Sections

Mary Ann McKay

Boggle (All Members Welcome)

Judy Steele

Wed. Sept 20, at 1:30 pm

Host: Judy Steele

Book Discussion I

Elissa James

Thurs. Sept 21, at 10:00 am

Host: Elissa James

Normal People, Sally Rooney

Book Discussion II (wait list)

Karlyn Schneider

Thurs. Sept 28, at 12:30 pm

Host: Judy Podesta

Lucy By The Sea, Elizabeth Strout

Book Discussion III (wait list)

Pat Fuetsch

Thurs. Sept 28, at 1:30 pm (Date Change)

Host: Sherrean Rundberg

Personal Librarian, Marie Benedict

Bridge

Elissa James

Mon. Sept 18, 12:30 pm

Host: Marge Denni

California Fact & Legend

Helen Hatchett

Tues. Sept 12 at 10:30 am (Date Change)

Host: Gayle Hardt

2 videos: *California's Militia in the Civil War & Volcano, Site of California's Only Civil War Battle*

Drama Reading

Marjorie Kobe

No Meeting in September

Foreign Affairs - Great Decisions

Margo King

Thurs. Sept 14, at 10:30 am

Host: Ramona Raybin

Iran at the Crossroads

Lunch Bunch!

Annette Delaney

Fri. Sept 15 at 11:30 am

The Tavern at Waterdog Landing

1015 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Belmont

Mah Jongg

Helen Hatchett

Wed. Sept 13, at 1:30 pm

Tues. Sept 26, at 1:30 pm

Host: Helen Hatchett

Membership: New and Prospective

Mary Ann McKay

Movie Group

Mary Ann McKay

No Meeting in September

Mystery Book Group

Mikki Coffino

Fri. Sept 8, at 1:30 pm

Host: Barb Schotzko

State of Terror, Hilary Clinton & Louise Penny

Public Policy/Current Events

Nancy Hobbs

Diane Silven

No Meeting in September

Walking 2nd and 4th Mondays 10:00 am year round

Bobbi Benson

Mon. Sept 11, 10:00 am (2nd Monday only this month)

Contact Bobbi Benson for more information.

American Association of University Women
P.O. Box 1465
San Mateo, CA 94401-0816

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

By joining AAUW you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5	6	7 AAUW Board Meeting	8 Mystery Book Group	9 General Meeting
10	11 Walking	12 California Fact & Legend	13 Mah Jongg	14 Foreign Affairs	15 Lunch Bunch	16
17	18 Bridge	19	20 Boggle	21 Book I	22	23
24	25	26 Mah Jongg	27	28 Book II Book III	29	30