



BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

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

September 2024, Vol 95, Issue 1

President's Message

Maureen Buchner

Our San Mateo Branch accomplished several things over the summer: eight local middle school girls attended Tech Trek Camp at Santa Clara University and three Skyline College students attended NCCWSL at the University of Maryland under our sponsorship.

One member, Ramona Raybin, volunteered to be a dorm mom at Tech Trek for the week, and Anne Horgan and I spent part of two days volunteering there. You know we couldn't stay away!

We are happy to report that STEM Camp is alive and re-energized following years of COVID-19 disruptions. We have included the girls' thank you notes inside this newsletter.

We couldn't provide these opportunities without your stalwart support. Thanks to all of you who donate to Tech Trek and NCCWSL. We depend on your generosity--the rewards have been amazing!

Our Scholarship Committee chairs, Christine Elgin and Cynthia Robbins-Roth, and their committee have done a terrific job of vetting and awarding 11 scholarships from the Ethel Gayman Fund for SMCCC students moving on to 4-year schools. The awards ceremonies we attended were so inspiring and gratifying!

We have some interesting General Meetings planned for the coming year. Mid-Peninsula Branch will be sharing the programs and meeting spaces, and we will be contributing to AV and hospitality.

Our first general Meeting will be September 14. The Tech Trek campers will regale us with stories from their experiences at camp, sharing their joy and discoveries. Make it a priority to meet them, and bring along a friend or prospective member.

San Mateo Branch Calendar 2024

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|---------|---|
| Sept 14 | Tech Trek Campers
Veterans Memorial Center, 1:30 pm
1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City |
| Oct 5 | League of Women Voters, Pros & Cons
Presented by Gayle Hardt, 1:30 pm
Veterans Memorial Center
1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City |
| Nov 2 | Book Banning
Redwood Shores Library, 1:30 pm
399 Marine World Pkwy, Redwood Shores |

San Mateo Branch September Meeting

Plan now to meet our local Tech Trek STEM camp scholarship recipients on September 14, at the Redwood City Veterans Memorial Center, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City 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 and hear their stories.

Public Policy Interest Section

A team is forming to revamp our branch Public Policy section. Learn how you can share monitoring the AAUW California Public Policy committee messages and help to plan a few section meetings for the coming year. Embrace your inner wonk! Contact Mary Ann McKay, maedchris@aol.com, for planning meeting information.

September 8 International Literacy Day

UNESCO established International Literacy Day in 1967 as a way for communities all around the globe to raise awareness of literacy as the foundation for justice, peace, and sustainability in the world. This is especially important for women in countries that limit the amount of education girls may receive.

It's important that we support school boards who fund adult education and do not allow book banning to ensure that everyone has the ability to read anything they want.

Tech Trek Campers are Very Grateful

Below are the thank you letters from the girls who attended the Tech Trek Camp in 2024.

Maria “Elena” Samayoa (Borel): *Thanks to you, I was able to experience one of the most memorable weeks of my life. Over the 6 days of camp, I developed a passion for science (especially biology). I made many new friends and had a very kind roommate. Thank you so much for allowing me to come to this magical place.*

Torin Brodie (Bayside): *Before coming to Tech Trek I thought I wanted to be a civil engineer, but now, because of getting to make a flashlight and a robot, I know I like mechanical and electrical engineering more. I have gotten to know a few lovely people here while sharing meals, easily one of the best parts of my stay. I’m so happy that I had the chance to attend Tech Trek.*

Sharanya Parthasarathy (Bowditch): *One thing I enjoyed was the climate science core class. We have been doing experiments and learning methods for saving the environment. My friends from core class and dorm group are so fun to hang around, I was really a little nervous that some girls might be a little rude, but everyone was so nice!*

My Tran (Bowditch): *My favorite memories were all the different workshops and what I gained from them; making puzzles, soldering, dissections, and many others. I also loved the life lessons like budgeting and making structures in our groups, You have my unending gratitude for this great opportunity.*

Charlotte Hanna (Abbott): *One thing I always looked forward to was my Forensics core class. We did everything from looking at the DNA of strawberries to doing an autopsy on a fetal pig. Overall, I really enjoyed the camp and I will never forget it.*

Gabriela Chencarek (Bowditch): *One of my favorite events was Mad City Money. It was nothing like I expected and I had so much fun. The counselors were very kind and my dorm mates were so funny. My favorite memory will be when we were singing and working on our build it project.*

Rosalie Molina (Bayside): *Some of the things I absolutely loved were robotics and making small flashlights. During robotics we built Lego robots that talked, moved, and spun around. During flashlights we used a circuit board to solder flashlights into the board. I will always be grateful that I got to experience this camp.*

Melanie Miranda (Borel): *Thank you very much for this experience. My group is full of so many different people-- everyone includes everyone. In engineering we had a lot of projects: 1) build something that holds two books, 2) a roller coaster, 3) a rocket, 4) an arcade game, and 5) solar s’mores. Ms. Herrera was the best teacher and she encouraged us to speak in front of people. Mad City Money taught us what we would waste and also helped us improve our money management. Thank you so much for the experience.*

U.S. Department of Education Releases Final Title IX Regulations, Providing Vital Protections Against Sex Discrimination

On April 19, the U.S. Department of Education issued strong and comprehensive protections against discrimination in school through final *Title IX* rules. The new regulations clarify that student survivors of sexual harassment, pregnant and parenting students, and LGBTQ+ students have equal educational opportunities free from sex discrimination.

The rules make significant changes to how schools respond to sexual harassment and discrimination claims, including:

- Eliminating the requirement for live hearings with cross examination
- Requiring schools to inform students of their Title IX rights and how to access them after being informed a student is pregnant
- Emphasis on supportive measures and training for school personnel
- The new rules take effect August 1, 2024. A separate rule clarifying Title IX’s protections for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex student athletes is not expected until later this year. AAUW joined a gender justice coalition letter in support of the athletics rule.

There are already several legal challenges to the new regulations. The attorneys general of Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana and Idaho filed a lawsuit in district court along with the Defense of Freedom Institute (a group founded by former Trump Education Department officials who were key in crafting former Secretary Betsy DeVos’ Title IX rule on campus sexual misconduct). Texas has filed a separate lawsuit. Several states, including Louisiana, Montana, Florida, South Carolina, and Oklahoma, have said they will not comply with the new rule.

The fight goes on. AAUW will not stop fighting for the health and well-being of women and girls.

11 Outstanding Ethel Gayman Scholarship Recipients

This was an incredible year for our AAUW Scholarship committee. We interviewed 11 outstanding students from Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College, all who qualified for our Ethel Gayman Scholarship with: fantastic grades; financial need; outstanding personal statements; heartfelt recommendations from mentors for their contributions to on-campus and community organizations and activities; and career goals well worth supporting. All of these students demonstrated the ability to persevere through huge challenges to achieve their academic goals. Our committee is very grateful that our branch board granted \$6,000 Ethel Gayman scholarships to all 11 students.

Our 2024/25 scholarship recipients:

Kimberley Clark (CSM) developed an early interest in finances which grew during the early pandemic years when her family was under severe financial pressure. At CSM, Kimberley received an associate degree in Business Administration and Economics while juggling work, taking care of her younger brother, volunteering at elder care home and animal shelters, advocating for positive mental health, and maintaining high academic honors. She is enrolled at UC Irvine, where she plans to major in business administration with a focus on accounting. Her goal is to become a CPA.

Chretienne Gomez (CSM) pursued multiple associate degrees and is now enrolled at UCLA, where her major will be Environmental Policy and Sciences. She plans to earn her law degree and work as an environmental defense/environmental justice lawyer. Izzy's passion stems from experiences in the Philippines with her parents exploring nature and participating in political protests. Her passion resulted in a successful externship with National Geographic, where she returned as a teaching assistant. Izzy is a co-founder of *Youth Global Connect*, a nonprofit helping youth to participate in climate action.

Antuaneth (Antu) Sosa (CSM) is enrolled at Stanford University for the fall semester, where she will continue on her path to become a licensed mental health clinical counselor, with a focus on the Latinx experience. Antu brings a broad and strong background in psychology course work coupled with working directly with fellow students as a peer educator. Her mentor spoke highly of her ongoing efforts to help create an environment on campus encouraging others to access support, and to fight the stigma often associated with mental health struggles. Antu also has helped build a community of first-generation college students where they can share their stories and support each other.

Leah Simmons (Cañada) was deeply affected by racism at her high school as the Black Lives Matter movement spread nationally. She joined a diverse group of students and staff on a year-long project to grow a supportive environment for marginalized students. She found an extension of that positive multicultural environment on the community college campuses. Leah has enrolled at Spellman College in Atlanta to pursue psychology and neuroscience with the goal of developing effective ways to incorporate other disciplines - sociology, history, statistics, etc.- to better understand human behavior and the impacts of multi-generational traumas to help people of color build longer, healthier, happier lives.

Abigail Alfonso (Skyline) directly experienced the inequity of our healthcare system as a young teen with a serious illness whose family had no health insurance and no money to pay for a hospital visit. She and her Filipino-Chinese American family have experienced racism that was exacerbated during the covid pandemic. This drives her goal of becoming a BIPOC healthcare practitioner focused on supporting underserved communities. On campus, Abigail has led a series of workshops on public health and wellness, and collaborated closely with the Rape Trauma Services. She completed a 6-week internship run by the head of Stanford University's DEI department, focused on increasing participation of BIPOC in medicine and was accepted into an internship in reconstructive surgery. Abigail will attend at UC Irvine.

Hsu (Jerry) Wai Hnin (Skyline) has completed a summer internship at UC Berkeley, where he is enrolled as a chemistry major. Jerry was a medical student in Burma (Myanmar) when the pandemic hit, coupled with a military coup. As an immigrant student, Jerry found a very supportive campus and fell in love with chemistry, thanks to an enthusiastic teacher. While tutoring fellow students, he created activities that demonstrated the key principles of chemistry in real-life applications. He helped plan Chemistry Week 2024 and recruited students and professors (who created a Chemistry Magic Show). Jerry also held down jobs on campus and off, and founded a Chemistry club, while maintaining high grades. Jerry plans to complete his Ph.D. in Chemistry studies and hopes to work as a chemistry professor.

Camille Catolos (Skyline) has loved computer & data sciences since high school, when she took an online college programming course to overcome feeling intimidated by STEM. The encouragement of that first professor and Skyline's Engineering and Technology Scholars learning community helped build her confidence. Camille did a summer research internship at Lawrence Berkeley Lab. She is enrolled in a 4+1 undergraduate plus masters degree program at UC Santa Cruz in Computer Sciences, to be followed by a Ph.D. She wants to work in the biotech or healthcare sectors to give back to her community.

Hnin Thander Win (Skyline) was in dental school in her home country of Myanmar when the military coup coincided with the pandemic. She came to the U.S. without her parents who are still in hiding in Myanmar. Her ultimate goal is to get into dental school in the U.S. She maintained high grades while being active in campus organizations and working 2 jobs on campus and 2 off campus. She is still waiting to hear from University of the Pacific Dental Hygiene program and hopes to start in the spring semester. Her ultimate goal is to enroll in dental school and complete her professional training.

Elnara Babayeva (CSM) is melding her experience as a young cancer survivor, her entrepreneurial streak, and her desire to promote the visibility of women in tech and design into a career in User Experience Design. She is enrolled at Cal State, East Bay, which has a faculty specializing in game development. Elnara hopes to build broader user accessibility into her designs by making them more intuitive and fun to use. Her extracurricular activities include volunteering at a local animal shelter for the past 3 years, where she helped organize a successful holiday adoption event, and with Imerman Angels, which supports people battling cancer.

Hilary May Lin (Skyline) brings her considerable math and data science skills to create data management tools to support and empower individuals and communities. In her home country of Burma, crucial information is stored primarily on paper, making it hard to retrieve and vulnerable to loss or destruction. On campus, Hilary has stood out for her academic achievements, coupled with her strong skills as a peer instructor and STEM center ambassador. She was an active member of the Myanmar Student Union. Hilary is enrolled at UCLA for the fall semester with a focus on data sciences and information management.

Chloe Knott (Cañada) left her home in South Africa for an au pair job in Santa Clara to make money for college. She was able to save enough for community college to follow her love of software coding. Encouragement from a women's computer club, coupled with her female tutors at Cañada, enabled Chloe to stay in the field despite the less-than-positive interactions with the overwhelmingly male students in her computer sciences classes. She maintained an outstanding GPA while working on campus and being part of student government. Chloe is enrolled at San Jose State University as a Computer Sciences major, with the goal of teaching other women and helping them feel empowered in this currently male-dominated field.

Scholarship Update

At the May Cañada College Awards Celebration, we met *Karen Kim Mead*, a previous recipient of the AAUW Ethel Gayman Endowment Scholarship. Karen received the scholarship (\$500) in 1968 as a Cañada incoming freshman. She went on to earn advanced degrees and her teaching credential. Karen who now lives in Burlingame, served for many years in the teaching profession. She was presenting 2 scholarships at the Cañada ceremony representing the Assistance League of San Mateo County.

New Member

Please welcome our new member:

Chris Panero

Chris received her BA in psychology as well as her secondary credential from Occidental College. Chris is a Co-President of the Mid-Peninsula AAUW Branch. She wishes to join our branch to further our cooperation between the branches. Chris has been very involved in Tech Trek as a dorm mom and also as the paperwork guru for Camp Curie at Stanford.

In Memoriam

Kay "Kiki" Susanne Arnaudo, 1942-2024

Kay "Kiki" Arnaudo, known to local theater aficionados for her award-winning performances as an actress and singer, died March 29 at the age of 82. Kiki was a beloved member of AAUW for many years.

A San Mateo native, Kiki attended Burlingame High School, and earned her BA from San Jose State where she was a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority. A versatile performer, Kiki was a featured actress in various Bay Area theater groups, mostly Hillbarn Theater, where she was awarded "best performance" honors for 6 shows. For those who wish to make a contribution in Kiki's memory, please contribute to Hillbarn Theater or Vista Center for the Visually Impaired.

AAUW is a Grass Roots Organization

We encourage all of our members to participate in our programs, so we're asking that if you have a topic that affects women and girls, please let us know so we can find a program or speaker on that topic. We want you to be part of the process and offer topics that interest you. Please contact any member of the Board of Directors with your ideas.

September 2024 Interest Sections

Mary Ann McKay

Boggle (All Members Welcome)

Judy Steele

Wed. Sept 18, at 1:30 pm

Host: Judy Steele

Book Discussion I

Elissa James

Thurs. Sept 19, at 10:00 am

Host: Maureen Buchner

The Nightingale, Kristin Hannah

Book Discussion II

Karlyn Schneider

Thurs. Sept 26, at 12:00 pm

Host: Judy Podesta

Last Bus to Wisdom, Ivan Doig

Book Discussion III

Ginny Brooks

Mary Ann McKay

Thurs. Sept 19, at 1:30 pm

Host: Barb Schotzko

Zealot, Reza Aslan

Bridge

Elissa James

Mon. Sept 16, at 12:30 pm

Host: Marge Denni

Drama Reading

Marjorie Kobe

No Meeting in September

Great Decisions - Foreign Affairs

Margo King

Thurs. Sept 12, at 10:30 am

Host: Margo King

Invisible Indonesia

Lunch Bunch!

Annette Delaney

Fri. Sept 20, at 11:30 am

Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave, So SF

Mah Jongg

Helen Hatchett,

Wed. Sept 11, at 1:00 pm

Host: Helen Hatchett

Tues. Sept 24, at 1:00 pm

Host: Maureen Buchner

Membership: New and Prospective

Mary Ann McKay

Movie Group

Mary Ann McKay, maedchris@aol.com, 650-445-5206

Tues. Sept 10, Time TBD

Please contact Mary Ann for more information

Mystery Book Group

Mikki Coffino

Fri. Sept 13, at 1:30 pm

Host: Barb Schotzko

Exiles, Jane Harper

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

Bobbi Benson

Mon. Sept 9, at 10:00 am

Mon. Sept 23, at 10:00 am

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 2024

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