



Celebrating all the young women of Tech Trek!

Join us at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Redwood Shores Library, to share in the excitement of Tech Trek — live and in-person — over this past summer. Meet the Trekkers from both Mid-Pen and San Mateo branches, learn about their experiences and how you can participate in future Tech Trek experiences. Mid-Pen's Vicci Mueller (far right in the photo to the right) served as a dorm mom at Camp Johnson Sonoma this past summer. Turn to Pages 4 and 5 to read Vicci's recap of the life of a dorm mom and the moving thank-you notes Mid-Pen received from the young women we sponsored.



President's Message

Pick up your branch directory at Sept. 9 Tech Trek event

By Chris Panero

Welcome back to a new year of fun, energy, passion, and education as we work to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



Chris Panero

Our September Event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 9 at 1:30 p.m. at Redwood Shores Library. We'll join with the San Mateo Branch to hear from Tech Trekkers from Mid-Pen and San Mateo branches who participated in Tech Trek

both in-person (for the first time since 2019) and virtually.

Together, they'll have stories and projects to share. See articles and photos elsewhere in this issue for more about Tech Trek.

You will also be able to pick up your

2023-2024 branch Directory.

Your board met in August to sort out membership, meeting and program items. Bernie Mellott, our Programs VP with Lois Monroe, hosted a productive brainstorming meeting to collect varied and interesting program ideas.

It's going to be a good year.

To read and to watch

Need a good book? Try the sassy and pointed novel, *When Women Were Dragons*, by Kelly Barnhill.



For TV that addresses issues inherent in many of AAUW's goals, take a look at the PBS offering *The Human Footprint: The Ground Below*.

Along with learning about the science and social history of cotton husbandry, you'll meet the amazing attorney and civil rights icon [Faya Rose Touré](#), Alabama's first black woman judge.

Who? What? When?

President: Chris Panero

Membership: Stephanie Katz and Barb Finnegan

Electronic distribution: Cathy Chowenhill

Triad editor: Micki Carter

Sunshine Lady: Marge Haruff. Please contact Marge if you know anyone who would appreciate a card from Mid-Pen Branch.

Know of a prospective member? Please contact Stephanie Katz or Barb Finnegan

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 10 a.m.; location to be determined.

Triad Deadline for October will be Sept. 15. Please send articles in Word, Pages or Google.doc and photos (separately, not embedded) as large-format JPEGs to Micki Carter.

Betty Torrez Scholar is Aneka Gomez, who is heading to Arizona State

Mid-Pen President Chris Panero recently received this note in acknowledgement of Mid-Pen's establishment of the Betty Torrez Scholarship at Sequoia High School:

"Thank you so much for donating \$1,000 to establish the Betty Torrez Memorial American Association of University Women Scholarship to a Sequoia High School student.

"This scholarship will definitely have a financial impact on the life of Aneka Gomez, who will be attending Arizona State University in Tempe this fall.

"The ongoing financial support you provide continues to touch the lives of many young people. Your generosity helps Sequoia truly be Unaliyi — a place of friends — as we continue to strive to make Sequoia a place where everyone feels like they belong.

"You truly make a magnificent difference in our Sequoia community, and we are so grateful for your support. Thank you again."

The note was signed by Teresa Ignaitis and Teresa Yeager, Sequoia High School College/Career Advisors and Scholarship Co-chairs

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Membership dues	\$2,100	Administration	\$1,370
Fundraising	500	Conferences	4,000
Carryover (prior year)	8,000	Promotion	960
Misc. income	400	General meetings	1,880
		Publications	710
		Membership	300
		Contingency	1,780
TOTAL	\$11,000	TOTAL	\$11,000

Mid-Pen members, I've taken over the treasurer position from the very capable hands of Cathy Chowenhill. I want to thank Cathy for all she's done and for making this job understandable and well-organized. I look forward to working with my fellow-board members and members! I'd like to present to you the Branch Budget for 2023-2024 which has been approved by the Mid-Pen board as of May 2. — Amy Armstrong

Mid-Peninsula welcomes two new members

Stephanie Meyer

By Barb Finnegan

Welcome our new member, Stephanie Meyer. She joined AAUW as she is ready for new activities and enjoys hiking. Although she is a new member to AAUW, she is known to several of our branch members who belong to the same book club.

Stephanie was born in Washington, D.C., and had two brothers who are unfortunately deceased. She attended University of Delaware for undergraduate and received a Master's in Library Science from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She started her career on the Intercity bookmobile in D.C., hired by the same women who had driven the bookmobile through Stephanie's neighborhood when she was a child!

She moved to California in 1969 and was the librarian at both the Los Angeles and Pasadena Public libraries during her career. The last 19 years of her career, Stephanie was the librarian at a special K-12 Episcopal school.

Stephanie has two children. Her son lives in the Czech Republic and has an adult daughter and an adult son. Her daughter lives in San Carlos, and Stephanie moved here in 2007 to help with her three grandsons who are now college-age.

Stephanie is very involved in P.E.O., a philanthropic organization "where women celebrate the advancement of women, educate women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans, and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations." Doesn't this sound familiar to the mission of AAUW? Stephanie explains that the combined P.E.O. chapters conduct fundraising activities which allows them to provide numerous and diverse scholarships.

Stephanie is a Level IV Healing Touch practitioner. Healing Touch is an energy therapy in which practitioners use their hands in a heart-centered and intentional



Stephanie Meyer



Karen Large

way to support and facilitate physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health for conditions such as cancer, pain and post-operative recovery. Stephanie provides free therapy at the Stanford Infusion Center through the Healing Partners program.

Stephanie will have more time to pursue her interest in joining both the Walk/Talk&Gawk Hiking group and the Hilly Hikers group as the Holly Hill boutique in San Carlos will be closing soon. She has been helping the owner, who is a friend. Please welcome Stephanie to our branch.

Karen Large

By Barb Finnegan

Karen Large, former reporter and corporate communications executive, recently moved to Belmont and joined our branch. Born to parents who were teachers, Karen grew up near Whittier and graduated from U.C. Irvine in English Literature. Her first paid job was as a reporter for the Whittier Daily News.

Karen worked at various newspapers primarily in Northern and Southern CA. Eventually she worked in corporate communications for Kaiser Permanente.

She's adapted to geographical moves through her husband's work. She was on the Board of the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW and involved in fundraising activities for 15 years. In our branch Karen has joined Mah Jongg and book groups.

Pre-Covid she greatly enjoyed singing with an East Bay women's chorus in the East Bay. She wonders if any Mid-Peninsula member can suggest such a group on the Peninsula. She also enjoys current events and water aerobics.

One of Karen's most compelling efforts is babysitting her two young grandsons in Redwood Shores and anticipating helping with her third grandchild this August.

Ruthie Wilkins is collecting used eyeglasses for the Lions Club. They are given to folks who need them throughout the world. The Lions Club provides this service free of charge to the recipients. Leave your donations on the front porch of Ruthie's home.


July 28 2023

TECH TREK IS THE BEST!

Dear Mid Peninsula Branch,


I thank you sincerely for sending me to this fantastic camp. Tech Trek has really helped me expand my horizons in science. I had getting to meet all kinds of people, and having an overnight Dorm Room, as well as all the kind teachers / junior counselors.

Really happy that I got into (on my opinion) the best class, Chemistry Mr. Kucinski, showed me the wonders of magnets and experimenting. I learned that when you light magnesium of fire, it creates a bright light. There were many other fun activities beyond chemistry, like a guest speaker talking about astronomy. Other of some fun and activities were definitely worth writing about. I loved the Sonoma Science Agency tour. We hiked back along the crystal colored river while playing a fun color game!

Soldering was my favorite memory here at Tech Trek. I got to build my own flashlight! Though small and not bright, I hope that at least, I will remember this.

Also to add on I liked having a roommate, though it was my first time it was very enjoyable to be so close to someone I had only met I went to!

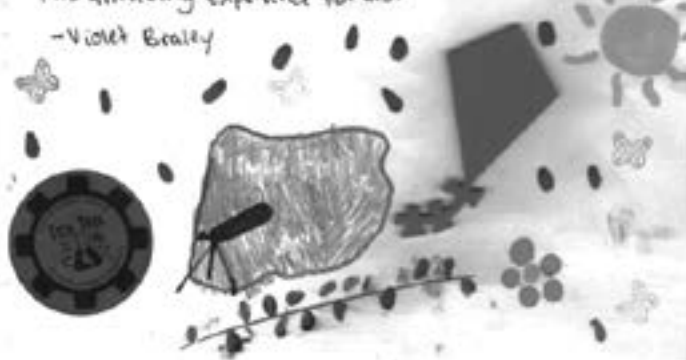
Thank you, thank you again Mid Peninsula Branch for allowing me in this camp. Please continue to give girls more chances to explore science! Sincerely, Emma De, thalia



7/28

Dear Mid Peninsula Branch Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend Tech Trek. It was such an amazing experience both academically and socially. The people were amazing and very inviting. I felt I fit in at this camp immediately. It was so enjoyable and overall I am so great-ful I got to be here for Tech Trek 2023! I especially enjoyed my core class (robotics) it really added a creative aspect to the camp and I absolutely loved it. Look forward for Tech Trek to be on resumes and applications. I also look forward to being able to go to other things like Tech Trek. I really enjoyed all the projects in Robotics, and the lab in Botany. Again thank you so much for sponsoring this amazing experience for me.

-Violet Braley





Dear Mid Peninsula AAUW Branch,

Thank you so much for the amazing opportunity that was to be lucky enough to come to this Tech Trek camp. I have made many forever lasting friends that I hope to stay in touch with for a very long time. This camp has been an amazing experience that has really helped me grow in my STEM Journey, and gave me the chance to explore life as an engineer, at this beautiful college campus. Throughout this week I have taken a core class that was challenging but yet inspiring. When my didn't work, it was hard at first to keep trying after failure, but my passion and determination to get my Build Complete kept me pushing through. This is a skill I believe that I thanks to Tech Trek I will have forever and that will help me throughout my life. I am extremely grateful and forever thankful that I got to experience this camp and that I get to keep these beautiful memories. I have "Macgiver'd" my self through tricky situations and got to use team work to solve awesome engineering mixups. So in conclusion, as this amazing STEM Journey temporarily comes to an end, I would once again like to thank my mid Peninsula Branch, and Science Teacher Mr. First, for making this STEM Journey be possible.

Thank You
Sincerely, Bada Orlova



Tech Trekkers offer notes of thanks to us!

Dear AAUW Mid-Peninsula Branch,

Thank you so much for sponsoring me to go to Tech Trek. I have had such a great time here. Without this sponsorship, I wouldn't have pushed my introverted limits and made so many new friends. Even though I felt homesick on Monday and Tuesday, those thoughts quickly faded away as I opened myself up. All the people were super interesting, and all the people were super nice. They always knew how to brighten up the room and make us laugh. I really enjoyed my time here and hope to come back next year.

Sincerely, Madeleine Yung

A day in the life of Tech Trek Dorm Mom Vicci

By Vicci Mueller

6 a.m.— Time to get up! Take a shower, get dressed, go downstairs for your first cup of coffee! So needed! Check to make sure you know what the day's schedule is.

7 a.m. — Wake up girls. They need to be ready to walk the long trek to breakfast by 7:30! 7:30AM- . Make sure you have all 10 girls and they have everything they need for the day! Walk the long trek to breakfast and have the girls find a table. Casually check to make sure they are eating and drinking.

9 a.m. — The girls go off to class with volunteers from different branches. Dorm mom meeting at 9:15 to review the day's schedule, check for any problems, and generally discuss how things are going. Then time to

go to a class or maybe some free time to recoup! One day go on a field trip with your dorm group!

11:30 a.m. — Go to the cafeteria and wait for the girls to arrive from their classes. Collect them for lunch.

1 p.m. — Send girls with their classes to different activities in the afternoon. Join the activities that need adult supervision or go with your dorm group.

5 p.m. — Collect girls for dinner. Have dinner and return to the dorm.

7 p.m. — Walk girls to different night-time activities.

8:30 p.m. — Return to dorm. Have a meeting with girls and Junior Counselor to discuss the day and roll newspapers for their final night project!

10 p.m.— Bedtime! Yea!



Dorm Mom Vicci Mueller



Mid-Pen's Climate Change Section was represented at the Citizens Climate Lobby and the San Mateo County Student Climate Justice activist march and rally on Aug. 5 by Victoria Kline Cosley. She's pictured here with Harry Moody, board president of [Gray Is Green](http://GrayIsGreen.org). The student-led rally began at San Mateo's Central Park with 50-plus energetic students, a high school marching band and local dignitaries, including Rep. Kevin Mullin and State Sen. Josh Becker showing their support. Other noted climate change organizations joined the students and supporters.

Interest Sections

Find a section to pique your unique interests

Movie Group

The Movie Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the mid- or late afternoon, depending upon the selected film. This is the bargain cost day in local theaters. We attend a movie, usually in Redwood City, occasionally in San Mateo, and then go to a nearby restaurant for dinner. Call or email Susanne Burrill.

Tea Time Fiction Group

Tea Time Fiction Book Discussion Group will continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month from 4-6 p.m. in the Hillsdale Nordstrom restaurant on Nordstrom's third floor. Kathy Rafael and Mikki Coffino are co-leaders so newly interested members can contact either one of us. We'll discuss Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker on Sept. 21.

Team Mah-Jongg

A lively group of members play and continue to learn American Mah-Jongg. We meet Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the San Carlos Adult Community Center at 601 Chestnut, San Carlos. Usually, four to six players are able to attend, and we look forward to more joining the group. Periodically, classes are offered for

those who are new to the game. For further information, contact Kathy Morrow.

Climate Change

The Climate Change section meets once a month on the fourth Monday from 3:30 -5 p.m. Contact Victoria Kline for meeting details and to RSVP.

Book Bunch

Members meet to discuss fiction and nonfiction on the third Friday of each month at 10 a.m., location rotating among members. Contact: Carol Orton.

Hilly Hikers

Hilly Hikers will continue to meet on the fourth Friday of the month. Wilma will be back to lead on Oct. 24. If someone from the group would like to nominate and lead the Sept. 22 hike, please contact the others though email. New members wanting to join should either contact a current Hilly Hiker or wait till Wilma is back Oct. 4.

All About Food

Join us as we explore the history, uses and benefits of foods and how to grow or prepare them. Take a turn leading monthly discussions or suggest a tasting or excursion.

Meetings are at 3:30 p.m. on the second Thursday. Contact Carole Farina.

Walk/Talk & Gawk

The group continues to meet on Thursday mornings. Members of the group suggest walks, hikes, routes and the time and place to meet, and then someone leads and does the emails for that week. Stephanie Katz is the contact.

Section Contacts

All About Food— Carole Farina
American Mah Jongg — Kathy Morrow
Book Bunch — Carol Orton
Film Viewing — Susanne Burrill
French Conversation — Laverne Rabinowitz
Hilly Hikers — Wilma Hoffmann
Historic Preservation — Nancy Oliver
Spanish Conversation — Teddy Heinrich
Tea Time Fiction — Mikki Coffino, Kathy Rafael
Walk/ Talk/ & Gawk — Stephanie Katz

Hilly Hikers study wildflowers and whales at Mori Point



In June, Carolyn Seffens, Susanne Burrill and Wilma Hoffmann enjoyed a leisurely 2.8 mile walk at Mori Point. It was hilly, but the flowers were so spectacular that the ooh and aahs were non-stop for much of it. Susanne spent much time identifying the flowers unknown to the hikers. Some were non-native, originating from the Mediterranean area but the most spectacular were the banks of native paintbrush. We watched spouts of feeding whales out at the Point, and lunch was at Round N Round Pot in Brisbane which the Hilly Hikers recommend to all for a different lunch experience.



**2023-2024
Mid-Peninsula
officers were
installed at
lunch in June**



Brown-bagging it at Burton Park in San Carlos



Our informal brown bag get-together on June 28 at Burton Park in San Carlos was bright, breezy, and well-attended by about 20 members, including our new members, Stephanie Meyer and Maureen Galaty.

It was a wonderful chance to connect casually with other members of the branch, some of whom had not seen each other in a while, and to make new friends. A chance too, for people passing the baton to also pass on some advice and encouragement to their replacement.

Thank you to Bernie Mellott and Nancy Cantisano for making it happen. There was a little treat too: Nancy Cantisano brought a bag of M&Ms for us to share!

