



Newsprint (fast becoming a rare commodity in the country) was used to construct this miniature golf course, complete with a windmill, golf clubs and balls, at Camp Hopper at Santa Clara University this summer.

Meet this year's Tech Trek group on Sept. 13

By Sheri Simmons and Karen Large

Building their own working robots, learning about thermodynamics through ice cream making, participating in an Artificial Intelligence workshop — these are a few of the challenges selected girls explore when they attend Tech Trek, AAUW's STEM Camp for middle-school girls.

Mid-Peninsula Branch sponsored eight girls at Tech Trek's local Camp Hopper this summer, where they lived in the Santa Clara University dorms for a week.

We also sponsored one girl at virtual Tech Trek, where hands-on projects are central to the experience.

Want to hear more? This summer's camp participants will share their experiences at the annual joint program of the Mid-

See TECH TREK, Page 4



Our Mid-Peninsula Tech Trekkers at Camp Hopper in July 2025.

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

President's Message

Welcome to a busy new year for our Mid-Peninsula Branch

By Barb Finnegan

I am excited to be president of our branch and for the opportunities we have this year, both mission-based and social.

Our branch supports the AAUW mission to promote gender equity through educational support at the local level.

Continuing our work since 1998, this summer eight girls were sent to Tech Trek camp and one to a virtual camp. Our branch lacked sufficient Tech Trek funds to send an additional three qualified girls to camp.

A \$2,000 scholarship was awarded to a Cañada college graduate who will be attending a four-year college this fall. She thankfully replied that this will help with expenses as she won't be able to work as often. Next year she will be given an additional \$2,000 for her second year.

Tuition was also provided for a woman in the Women's Mentoring and Leadership Academy at Skyline College to attend the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, D.C., where she learned leadership skills.

We need your donations and fundraising activities to continue this fulfilling work.

Our branch will again hold monthly general meetings starting Sept. 13. Our VPs of Program will focus on topical issues such as the Electoral College and human trafficking and ensure the programs support diversity, equity and inclusion.

Please reach out to Karen Large and Pat McCarty if you have ideas as we would like to see more of you attend the programs.

The social aspect of our branch is also important, perhaps as the glue that binds us. We have well-attended interest section groups. Let us know if you have ideas for a new group.

Your Neighborhood Leads have met to discuss social get-togethers. Please submit your ideas to Carolyn Seffens, Neighborhood Coordinator.

Do you know anyone who may be interested in joining AAUW? Send the names of potential members to VPs of Membership, Stephanie Katz, and Gail Langkusch.

This will be a great year, with your help!

Who? What? When?

President: Barb Finnegan

Membership: Stephanie Katz and Gail Langkusch

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 Gail Langkusch.

Board Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 10 a.m. at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City

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.

Two-Minute Activist — Sign up [here](#) to receive regular alerts on AAUW public policy priorities, including how to send drafted letters to your legislators.

AAUW Email — Enroll [here](#). Don't miss any news!

AAUW's Strategic Plan

Empowering core issues affecting women through education

By AAUW National

What are this year's AAUW goals and their plans to achieve them? How can our branch support these goals?

Priority 1: Funding Higher Education

National AAUW meets this goal through:

- Direct funding by providing fellowships and grants
- Academic research by supporting women in academia and research
- Leadership development by cultivating alumnae networks for empowered leaders

Branch/State AAUW meets this goal through:

- Local scholarships supporting women pursuing higher education
- K-12 programs – Building foundations

for girls' success in education

- STEM programs: Encourages girls to pursue STEM Careers

Priority 2: Removing Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace

National AAUW meets through:

- Direct Federal Policy advocacy on core issues affecting women's equity and opportunity
- Title IX and civil rights enforcement
- Workplace protections including paid leave
- Anti-harassment legislation
- Skill-building training for branches and campus initiatives nationwide.

Branch/State AAUW meets through:

• Grassroots action on AAUW priority issues or those with local community impact on AAUW

• State/local policy initiatives and representation

- Leverage AAUW National resources
- Campus work with students and faculty
- Mobilize members for coordinated national action with regional focus

Priority 3: Our collective Impact is Stronger Together

Branches steadfast support has been the backbone of AAUW's success. Through the branch's advocacy, fundraising and community engagement, we extend AAUW's reach and drive lasting change.

Tech Trek champion Jean Dehner died Aug. 12

By Micki Carter

Jean Dehner, the former principal of Arundel Elementary School in San Carlos and the former Tech Trek Coordinator for Mid-Peninsula Branch, died Aug. 12 in San Carlos where she had lived for the past 47 years.

Past President Chris Panero remembered that “Jean worked hard at keeping up-to-date with Tech Trek alumnae.”

A San Mateo Daily Journal article in 2017 mentioned that Jean “had just hosted a reflection event for participants and supporters of Tech Trek, where Dehner serves as a volunteer and ‘dorm mom.’

“She was blown away by parent accounts of their daughters’ excitement when they picked them up from camp.

“That’s why I get so psyched about it,” she said. “These girls have these experiences, and when they walk out, they’re transformed.”

After 10 years working as a school



Jean Dehner

counselor in Pennsylvania, Jean took a job as a teacher and school counselor for the San Carlos Elementary School District when she

and her husband arrived in the area.

She said she chose the teaching profession because she had been raised by parents who were educators, and she saw teaching as the field with the most opportunities for women.

“There were not a lot of career choices for women,” she said. “Teaching was one of the fields wide open for women.”

The newspaper article noted that Dehner spent more than 30 years in San Carlos schools, serving as a dean, assistant principal and principal. She would soon find that what started as a logical career decision would become her life’s passion.

“Doing things with kids keeps my enthusiasm up,” she said. “I get incredible satisfaction out of doing things that benefit kids.”

In 2016, the San Carlos Chamber of Commerce named Jean the city’s Citizen of the Year.

Mid-Peninsula Branch will alert you to services for Jean when they are announced.

Typically, when a branch president completes a year as president, she gets an AAUW pin. But when she’s leaving after her third year, it’s a puzzle to come up with a gift. Last June, Chris Panero got a gift certificate to her favorite café. Perfect! Cathy Chowenhill received a trip to the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts to see *Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean*, thanks to Katherine Linnemann and the board! They had a great time, and Cathy wore her AAUW pin!



Washington State AAUW to present a Zoom panel on the status of Title IX

A panel of three experts will discuss the past, present and future of Title IX in a Zoom forum from 5:30-7 p.m. Sept. 17, presented by AAUW Washington State.

Panelists will include Dr. Dorothy McBride, professor emerita of political science at Florida Atlantic University; Dr. Julie McCleery, co-director, University of Washington Center for Leadership in Athletics; and Dr. Domanic Vanthom, vice chancellor and deputy Title IX coordinator, Washington State University, Vancouver.

This panel will provide attendees with a deeper understanding of the legal, cultural and political dimensions of Title IX — from its 1972 origins to the most recent developments in 2025.

It will focus on its impact on gender equity in education, athletics and beyond.

To register, click [here](#). This will take you to a Google Form. Complete it, and then 48 hours before the presentation, you will receive the Zoom link.

Remember you must pre-register to receive the Zoom link to attend.



Chris Panero and Vicci Mueller (front left) pose with the other Tech Trek Dorm Moms at Camp Hopper at Santa Clara University this summer. On the left are two Mid-Pen campers getting to know each other.

Can you help fund Tech Trek for Summer 2026?

By Barb Finnegan

The funds for the Tech Trek program, which have been donated by our members over the years, are almost depleted.

We need your support to continue our great work in sending campers to Tech Trek next summer, 2026. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to sustain the program.

We need your help today! The need is urgent!

Help us save Tech Trek with a tax-deductible donation through the Special Projects Fund. Required Minimum Distribution (RMDs) are accepted, and many companies

will match employee donations.

To donate online: Log on [here](#) and scroll down to DONATE. Select **Tech Trek –Santa Clara Hopper 5043** on the memo line and add the name of our branch (**CA-0095 Mid-Peninsula**) in the NOTES field.

To donate by check: Make your check payable to **AAUW-CA-SPF**. Specify: **Tech Trek — Camp Hopper** and the name of our branch (**CA-0095-Mid-Peninsula**) on the memo line.

Mail to Nancy Kucharik, 1025 Lafayette St., San Mateo CA 94403.

Please consider the suggested donation levels below but any amount is greatly appreciated.

- Full tuition for one camper, \$1200
- Half tuition, \$600
- Quarter-tuition, \$300 (less than \$1/day!)
- \$100
- Other

Donors will be acknowledged in The Triad. Please let us know if you prefer your donation to be anonymous.

Thank you from the Mid-Peninsula Board and Tech Trek Committee

Tech Trek

Continued from Page One

Peninsula and San Mateo AAUW branches from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Redwood Shores Library, 399 Marine Parkway, Redwood City

Our Mid-Pen branch members are involved in numerous ways, from donating to fund scholarships, saving newspapers for a building project, and volunteering at Camp Hopper workshops or in the role of “Dorm Mom” with responsibility for a group of girls all week.

That sure takes energy! Kudos to Vicci Mueller and Chris Panero for serving as Dorm Moms.

We also want to recognize our Tech Trek Committee, including Jane Fernald, Laura Miller and Sheri Simmons (leading the team), for their efforts throughout the year in the planning, nomination and camper selection process. Many thanks to all our volunteers!

The importance of the Tech Trek program in these girls’ lives is captured in a thank you letter from one of this summer’s campers: “...What an honor it is that you chose me to attend Tech Trek. It’s an experience I will never forget – it changed my life!”

Indeed, this one-week summer camp is backed by AAUW’s research and designed

to make STEM fields exciting and accessible to girls in middle school — the age when girls’ participation in these fields statistically drops.

For many girls, the week-long camp sparks their curiosity and places them on a path toward success.

As we look to next year for this valued program, we need to build up our Mid-Pen Tech Trek funds so that we can continue to capture girls’ interest in STEM fields.

Please see the article above by Barb Finnegan for ways to support Tech Trek.

You can also make a donation at the Sept. 13 General Meeting for our 2026 Tech Trek scholarships.



The Walk/Talk & Gawk hikers, organized by Stephanie Katz, was busy over the summer. In July (at right) Carolyn Seffens, Stephanie Meyer, Gail Langkusch and Carole Farina toured the Professorville neighborhood of Palo Alto. In August, Carolyn, Erika Abbott and Sherry Booth hiked Sawyer Camp trail along the Crystal Springs Lakes.



Jane Fernald (left) and Wilma Hoffmann make some purchases with manager Mike at the Olive Crush store in San Carlos as part of an All About Food excursion in August. They were joined by Carole Farina, Gerhild Klein and her guest to learn about and taste olive oils and vinegars at the store. Watch for the late November opportunity to have their purchases yield a donation to our scholarship fund.



The French Conversation Group celebrated Bastille Day at a bistro in Menlo Park. The group included (from left) Chris Panero, Judi Kerfoot, Leslie Pasahow, Pat McCarty, Karen Rende, Mirna Hirschel and Laverne Rabinowitz.

Interest Sections

Book Bunch chooses books for months of fall

Book Bunch

Our Book Bunch members had a busy summer of reading, including discussions of *Anita de Monte Laughs Last* by Xochitl Gonzalez in June, *James* by Percival Everett in July, and *North Woods* by Daniel Mason in August.

Our reading adventures continue with planned discussions of *The Gravity* by Tracy Guzman on Friday, Sept. 19 (hosted by Hilary Hausman), *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel on Friday, Oct. 17 (hosted by Mirna Hirschel), *When Women Were Dragons* by Kelly Barnhill on Friday, Nov. 19 (hosted by Wilma Hoffman) and a Holiday Book Exchange on Friday, Dec. 19 (hosted by Carol Orton).

Book Bunch meets on the third Friday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. Meetings are hosted by members who take turns hosting and choosing the books. If you have questions, please contact Carol Orton.

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

Gail Langkusch.

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 and Fridays from 12:45-2:45 p.m. at the San Carlos Adult Community Center at 601 Chestnut, San Carlos. New players are welcome. Periodically, classes are offered for those who are new to the game. For further information, contact Carolyn Seffens

Climate Change

The Climate Change section meets once a month on the fourth Monday from 1-2:30 p.m. Contact Victoria Kline for meeting details and to RSVP.

Hilly Hikers

Hilly Hikers will continue to meet on the fourth Friday of the month. New members wanting to join should contact Wilma Hoffmann.

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.

French Conversation

Join us for our meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1:30 p.m. in the home of Leslie Pasahow in Menlo Park. We're a friendly group striving to use French more easily, and we'd love to have newcomers with knowledge of the language join us. RSVP to Leslie.

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. Stephanie Katz is the contact.

Drama Reading Group

The Drama Reading Group of the San Mateo Branch has openings for two people. It meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at a different member's home and enjoys a breakfast prepared by the host. The chair conducts a brief talk about the playwright. Then we read the play aloud with each member reading an assigned role. The monthly plays are distributed throughout a network of AAUW California branches and are scheduled in a rotation.

If interested, contact Marjorie Kobe at shaw.maggie@gmail.com or call (650) 579-5650.



The Book Bunch gathered at the home of Wilma Hoffmann to talk about *James* by Percival Everett. On hand were (front, left) Carole Farina, Carolyn Miller, Wilma Hoffmann and Hilary Hausman and (back left) Carol Orton, Karen Large, Barb Finnegan, Katherine Linneman, Mirna Hirschl and Gail Langkusch.

Nancy Cantisano talks about her brother and his love for organics

By Nancy Cantisano

On June 23rd the Climate Change section and the All About Food group gathered to hear a talk I presented about my brother, Amigo Bob Cantisano, and his book *Know Your Soil*.

Before his passing in 2020, he had become an expert in the world of organic farming. Self-taught, he never finished college but he had a knack for learning from others that he met throughout his life.

He started several businesses, including Peaceful Valley Farm Supply that he began in 1976. The business continues today in Grass Valley with his daughter-in-law as its general manager.

My brother also served as a consultant with Organic Ag Advisors and traveled around the world giving advice and learning from others as well.

His knowledge of soil was passed down to his four children who all are involved somehow in growing food for their own families and others. He ended all correspondence with "Have a Happy Growing Day!"



Nancy Cantisano and her brother's book.



From left: Kathy Morrow, Pat McCarty, Barbara Regello and Nancy Batten



From right: Barb Finnegan, Teddy Heinrich and Margot Diltz.

Bidding summer goodbye at Burton Park in SC

After a downright chilly summer, it was all sunhats and smiles for the members of Mid-Peninsula Branch who turned out on Wednesday, Aug. 20, for a bring-your-own lunch party by the bocce ball courts at Burton Park.



Stephanie Katz and Katherine Linneman



From left: Gail Langkusch, MaryAnn McKay, Stephanie Meyer, Karen Large, Madeline Mindek, Carolyn Seffens.