

AAUW Tech Trekkers Thrilled By Their Experiences at Grace Hopper STEM Camp in July

What is inside a squid, a fish or a computer? What is nanotechnology? What would YOU create if you had newspaper, masking tape and one brief lecture on structural engineering? What would you build with your dorm team? And how would you like to make a flashlight and bath bombs? Do you want to visit Google or the marsh? Our seven Tech Trek girls had an opportunity to do all this and more!

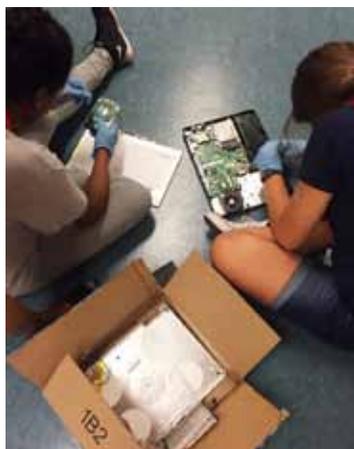
OML's Tech Trek girls – Katerina Bonderud, Olivia House, Namratha Kasalanati, Cathy Kenderski, Kiara Kofoed, Isabelle Lurie and Maia West – returned from their week of camp on the Stanford University campus with glowing reports of fun and learning. *Turn to page 2 to read their comments.*

This year, core classes at camp included Computer Coding and Cyber Sleuthing, as well as Marine Biology, CSI Forensics, and Engineering Design. At camp, they took apart computers, wrote computer code, dissected fish, solved problems using DNA code, measured vitamin C in chemistry lab, and attended field trips to a marsh, Symantec, VMWare, the Stanford blood lab, and Google.

“Mad City Money” was new this year – this is a simulation where each participant is assigned a temporary identity, including occupation, salary, debt, marital status, children, etc. They visit nine “merchants” in Mad City to choose housing and transportation and to purchase necessities and wants. The goals are to practice budgeting as an adult with realistic circumstances and experience the consequences of good and poor decisions. It was an eye-opener for these girls!



Experiencing virtual reality during the field trip to Google



Gail Chesler excelled as the teacher for the Computer Coding core class! Christine Walwyn had a wonderful time as a dorm mom, keeping track of her group 24/7 and attending classes and field trips – and even getting a few hours of sleep. This was an incredibly busy week!

Thank you to everyone who has donated their money and their time to supporting our scholarships for these outstanding girls!!

Exploring the insides of a computer

Coming up ...

SHOWCASE SEPTEMBER 19

9:30~11:30 am

Orinda Community Church

The OML Branch Kick-off General Meeting

Read all the details
in the September Triad.

OML EXECUTIVE BOARD 2017-18

PRESIDENT

Laura Wittenberg

PRESIDENT ELECT

Denise Burian

PROGRAM VPs

Jill West & Janette Maher

MEMBERSHIP VPs

Alison MacKenzie

& Mary Levey

AAUW FUND VPs

Marie Bonilla

& Lynda Leonard

SECRETARY

Judy Hammon

FINANCE VP

Gail Chesler

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Pages 3 & 6 ~ AAUW Convention News
- Page 7 ~ Upcoming Events:
 - ☆ RESTAURANT WALK
 - ☆ SHRED•FEST

... from LAURA'S DESK

**Welcome back!**

This has been a very busy summer for many of our board members as they have been working to ensure that we as members of AAUW-OML are fulfilling our stated mission through our priorities, programs and community-building activities. We have a strong and committed membership and want to ensure we remain viable in this changing world. We also know it is important for us to continue to create an environment where our members work together as a team to support these efforts financially as well as with our time and talents.

In examining our branch's strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement, the board spent a day creating a strategic action plan with the goal of reaffirming our mission statement and branch priorities in the coming year. AAUW-CA's Leadership Program provided us with two facilitators, **Sandi Gabe** and **Dawn Johnson**, to lead us through this process, and with their help we have created a plan that we are confident will help us to achieve our goals.

The top five areas for action:

1. Increase member participation through the creation, improvement and promotion of open and diverse interest groups.
2. Improve our visibility within the community through our partnership with Saint Mary's College and the expansion of relationships with like-minded community organizations.
3. Form a committee to identify, improve, and coordinate our fundraising efforts, with the aid of the findings from the report on our fundraising activities and areas for resource allocation, which was chaired by Marie Bonilla.
4. Conduct a minimum of seven mission-based programs for our monthly meetings during the calendar year
5. Develop a committee to research and implement public policy programs to increase awareness and activism in issues that support our mission.

The Board of Directors is excited to implement this vision in the coming year, and with your help we know we can achieve our goals. We value your input and participation, so please reach out to the committee chair or myself if you would like to get involved or share any comments, questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing you in September!

**Laura Wittenberg,
President**



Isabelle: The lectures and events that I have attended would never have been an option at school. The information that I found most helpful was that at the College Finance event. Before that, college was mostly shrouded in mystery.

**Sandy Fox-Sohner,
Teck Tech Co-Chair**

Girls sponsored by OML

**OML TECH TREKKERS
SHARE THEIR MEMORIES**

Maia: My favorite activity in the camp was astronomy night. I got to leave early and help set up since I love astronomy. I loved using the telescopes and staring up at the brilliant night sky, clear and full of stars.

Katie: I can confidently say that I learned about more careers that I like and more people to support me throughout my journey. My core class was super fun as I got to do hands-on engineering.

Olivia: The highlight of my trip was being surrounded by girls just like me; girls who adore and are interested in science and math.

Namratha: My favorite was the Mad City Money workshop. I gained a lot of practical knowledge about spending and saving.

Cathy: Words cannot express the gratitude that I feel towards you. My experience at Tech Trek has truly opened my eyes to the possible careers that I can pursue in science.

Kiara: Tech Trek has already changed my perspective on the world and future careers. The subject that was most influential for me was my engineering core class. I loved creating cars.

FOCUS ON ... THE AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION



Four intrepid and excited OML members, **Laura Wittenberg, Denise Burian, Mary Leigh Miller and Pat Lopker**, attended the AAUW National Convention in Washington, D.C., in June. We joined 900 women from around the country with plans to lobby Congress, meet our new CEO and Board of Directors, hear from outstanding speakers, and attend workshops to increase knowledge, skills and motivation to



improve our branch's activities and advocacy to advance women and girls.

The convention opened with a keynote speech by **PBS NewsHour anchor Judy Woodruff**. She shared her perspective on challenges the news media faces in the current environment and was very optimistic about the work that journalists are doing to search for and report the truth.



Kimberly Churches, AAUW's new CEO, who started June 1, spoke to the convention a number of times. She spoke about her commitment to the goals, policy positions and work of AAUW. She identified four priorities to

focus on that will increase our effectiveness: building college/university partnerships, advancing pay equity, building STEM programs to increase women working in STEM fields and continuing research. The next convention will be in three years, instead of two, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, (August 18, 1920) which gave women the right to vote. And she said she is hoping the planning of it will result in not only our members attending, but our daughters and our granddaughters as well. We left feeling confident and excited about her leadership.

The highlights of the convention were the banquet speakers. The first was the 2017 AAUW Alumni Recognition Awardee

Tererai Trent – scholar, humanitarian and educator. She was a 2001-02 AAUW International Fellow, ultimately earning a Ph.D. She grew up in rural Zimbabwe where girls were not supposed to go to school and now is an international voice for equal access to quality education, and AAUW was instrumental in her success. She was inspirational.

Then we heard from **Associate Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor**. Wow!! She shared many personal stories of her life, including some from her work with the other justices on the court. But then during the question and answer period in which our CEO Kimberly Churches asked her questions, Justice Sotomayor stood up, went into the audience and began shaking hands with a couple of women at each table. Yes, for 45 minutes she walked from table to table and greeted us, shaking hands and hugging a few, all the while telling us very interesting stories about the law and how applying the law affects people. She made the legal system personal through her stories and by being so personable to us in the audience. It was an amazing experience and one we will not forget. There was not a dry eye in the house that night. All four of us were exhilarated! Did I say WOW!



Among several workshops offered, Mary Leigh, Pat and Denise attended Digital Communications and Social Media reminding us to keep our website up to date, and to reach more (and younger) people, our branch should have a Facebook and/or Twitter account. We learned how to manage and coordinate our online presence “in order to increase recruitment, retain members, raise money and make our advocacy more effective.” Mary Leigh and Denise resolved to start a Facebook account for our branch. Not only will we be able to improve communications to our members and potential members, we can provide information that AAUW National and California post to their accounts in a more timely fashion. If there are other members who would like to work with us, let one of us know. We would love to work with you!

**Denise Burian,
President-Elect**

Turn to page 6 to read about the AAUW Fund Award announced at the National Convention.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

Title IX at 45 – Progress & Challenges

Forty-five years ago AAUW member Representative Patsy Mink (D-HI) led the charge in Congress to pass Title IX in June 1972. In 37 words it leveled the academic playing field stating:

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

In the 45 years since the legislation passed, girls and women have proved that they have the interest and ability to succeed in areas once considered beyond their reach.

The Broad Reach of Title IX

Title IX applies to all aspects of education, both in and out of the classroom. Areas of particular concern in terms of providing equal access to education include STEM, career and technical education (CTE), athletics, sexual harassment and assault, single-sex education, and the rights of pregnant and parenting students. The U.S. Department of Education has developed guidance documents on how Title IX applies in each of these areas, as well as on the designation of Title IX coordinators, to guide schools in complying with the law.

The Transformative Impact of Title IX on Women’s Athletics

The most visible – and publicly known – impact of Title IX has been on women’s athletics. What many may not realize, however, is that the impact is not only on the playing field but also in corporate board rooms. In 1972 – the year Title IX was enacted – just seven percent of all high school girls participated in athletics. In 2015-16, 42 percent participated – a ten-fold increase in the number of participants. In college sports there was a seven times increase in the same period. At the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, U.S. women earned 61 medals, more than any other group – male or female – from any country.

But athletic participation and victories are only a small part of the total story. An Ernst & Young and ESPN survey found that among businesswomen now in the C-suite (CEOs, CFOs, etc.) a stunning 94 percent played sports, and 52 percent played college sports.

Perhaps most important, these young woman are not going to forget what they learned through sports. Tennis legend and women’s sports icon, Billie Jean King, thinks they will

have a profound effect of the future this country. “The young women graduating college in the next few years may be the first generation of women to receive equal pay for equal work in their professional lifetime and Title IX is helping secure their future.”

The Current Challenge

Despite Title IX’s many advances, much more needs to be accomplished. And regrettably, the enforcement of Title IX is in question. For example, in recent years the nation has been engaged in a long overdue conversation about campus sexual assault. One in five women are targets of attempted or completed sexual assault while they are college students. And serious harassment problems affecting boys and girls exist at the K-12 level. When sexual harassment occurs, Title IX requires that schools take immediate, effective action. The Obama Administration made Title IX enforcement, especially regarding campus sexual assault, a key issue in his administration. With the election of a new president and Congress, there are now concerns about Title IX enforcement. AAUW opposed the nomination of Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos following her confirmation hearing performance – especially her silence on the enforcement of Title IX and efforts to combat campus sexual assault.

AAUW National will continue to make Title IX enforcement, implementation and funding a vital priority. We as a branch can look for opportunities to lend support.

As a final note, all in all this is a very happy anniversary for Title IX. To celebrate, why not go to a girls’ or women’s sporting event? That ten-year-old girl out there on the soccer field – you’re going to vote for her some day.

Laura Monin and Jan Coe
Public Policy Co-Chairs

BRANCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Branch finances are secure and in good shape. Your Board of Directors met in mid-July to evaluate budgets for the branch. Next month’s Triad will show both our primary “operating budget” for the 501(c)(4) organization and our “doing-good-works budget” for the 501(c)(3) organization. A discussion and vote by the General Membership will occur at the September meeting to approve these budgets. Your questions, if any, will be welcomed by the treasurer, Gail Chesler, or any other board member. Anyone wanting to lend me a hand with some treasurer’s duties, let me know. I’d be glad to have you participate.

Gail Chesler,
Finance VP

MEMBERSHIP

COFFEE ON US
Saturday, August 12, 9 - 11 am
at Starbucks
Rheem Shopping Center
500 Moraga Road, Moraga



Plan to join us for a summer *Coffee On Us*. We will be meeting outside. All new, prospective or current members are more than welcome to come and have a chance to get to know other branch members in a smaller setting and have a coffee on the branch.

Dues Are Past Due

With the exception of the new members joining after March 15, your annual dues were due at the end of June. If you haven't yet paid, please do so as soon as possible. In August, we will begin the task of emailing and calling members who have not yet renewed. If you need help renewing online, please contact **Gail Chesler**.

If you are considering not renewing because you are not participating in any branch activities, you should consider your ongoing membership as a charitable contribution (of which \$46 is tax deductible.) Your dues payment helps AAUW support the mission of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and important national research studies.

If you are considering not renewing because of financial difficulties which make the membership dues more than you can handle in your budget, please contact Alison Mackenzie as we can offer limited financial assistance in reducing the dues amount.

Alison Mackenzie and Mary Levey
Membership VPs

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION IN ACTION!

The Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, a big financial supporter of the EYH-STEM Conference, hosted a fundraising Pancake Breakfast on July 4th with the proceeds going to several worthy community and Contra Costa County needs.

Because three of our OML Tech Trekkers from 2016 – **Natalie Davis**, **Helen Kaidantzis** and **Hannah Liu** – helped out with enthusiasm and an eager willingness to roll up their sleeves, the Rotary made a donation of \$100 to AAUW-OML Community Outreach Fund. These young girls worked alongside several other young women from several Contra Costa high schools plus one who is a systems quality engineering major at Pepperdine. All together, they served over 400 pancake breakfasts!

Chris Laszcz-Davis

AUTODESK GALLERY

Celebrating Creative Design

Our STEM participants have expressed great curiosity about 3D printers, so I decided to spend my summer educating myself and others. Here's a report from **Sally Swanson** about our trip into San Francisco, exploring the Autodesk Gallery at One Market. **Stacia Cragholm** arranged a creative field trip to Autodesk Gallery in San Francisco on June 27.

Some curious AAUW women, **Alison MacKenzie**, **Bobbie Dodson**, myself, and two Tech Trekkers, **Cara** and **Lynn Wolfe** met Stacia at One Market in the city. The Autodesk's Art Director gave an extremely interesting tour. Autodesk creates software for an amazing variety of applications. Examples are architecture, (the new MOMA façade), movies and television, industry, medical devices such as hip and knee replacements and the list goes on. Examples the Gallery showed were nothing short of amazing and the experience was beyond what could have been imagined.

The photo at the bottom is from one of the exhibits and shows a 3D computer-created art dress produced by Autodesk's generative design group on commission

for the artist. The artist wanted the dress to convey the concept of smoke and while on exhibit, it actually puffed smoke when observers got too close.

Autodesk is open for arranged tours on Wednesdays and also holds classes for youngsters on 3D printers.

Heidi Mayer,
STEM Conference
Co-Chair



AAUW FUND REPORT

Supporting AAUW Programs – *Your Donations at Work*

When you make a donation to one of AAUW's national funds, the dollars you give are put to good work supporting the many programs designed to empower women and girls. This is the first in a series of articles in the Triad that will highlight these funds and the people and organizations benefitting from the awards. We begin with the 2017 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award.

Established in 1989, this award honors an individual, project, organization or institution for outstanding contributions to equality and education for women and girls. The award is given for a broad range of activities including classroom teaching, education and research, and legal and legislative work in equality for women and girls. While the award focuses on education, the recipient need not be an educator.

SurvJustice Founder LAURA L. DUNN 2017 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award Recipient

At the AAUW convention in June, **SurvJustice**, founded by Executive Director Laura L. Dunn, J.D., received the 2017 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award. Dunn's story about establishing SurvJustice is one of turning a violent event and recovery from it into a body of work that ultimately resulted in national recognition and the formation of a nonprofit organization seeking to enforce justice for survivors of sexual assault on the college campus.



It happened in April 2004. Dunn was finishing her freshman year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison when two crew teammates sexually assaulted her at a party. That act of violence changed the course of her life. Despite reporting the offense to campus officials and police, she was denied justice and eventually filed a Title IX complaint against UW.

Her experience with campus sexual violence garnered national media attention from the Center for Public Integrity's investigative series titled *Sexual Assault on Campus: A Frustrating Search for Justice*, was featured on National Public Radio in 2010. In honor of her courage, Vice President Joe Biden invited Dunn as a VIP guest to the release of the 2011 Title IX guidance known as the *Dear Colleague Letter*, which explicitly requires schools to address campus sexual violence. Dunn then began working with national organizations to propose the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act. This act passed as Section 304 of the 2013 Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization.

Realizing her ability to create avenues of justice for survivors and to establish victims' rights, Dunn went on to found the national nonprofit SurvJustice, while graduating from law school in 2014. Based in Washington D.C., SurvJustice is the only national organization that provides legal assistance to survivors of sexual assault in campus hearings in the United States. Through effective legal assistance it enforces victim rights and holds both perpetrators and enablers of sexual violence accountable in campus criminal and civil systems. It also provides policy advocacy and institutional training services to prevent and address campus sexual violence.

Marie Bonilla and Lynda Leonard, AAUW Fund VPs

BASICS FOR BURCKHALTER

Items to be collected at
**SHOWCASE
TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19**

With the Oakland School District budget freeze, teachers and students at our adopted school find themselves short on even the necessities. Teachers were asked what they needed most. Below are their sometimes surprising answers.



Paper Towels
Kleenex
Hand Sanitizer
Antibacterial Wipes
#2 Pencils
Glue Sticks
Expo Markers (*black only*)
Paint Brushes
(*for our very artistic
5th grade teacher*)

We will have donation boxes at the Burckhalter table at Showcase.

Pat Beckner
Community Projects
Co-Chair

**SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 12**

**LEARN HOW TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**

Turn to the last page
for more details

OML Advertising Team Kicks Off Sales Campaign

Our 2017-18 directory advertising campaign is underway. Sales team members are renewing current ads and selling new ones. We appreciate our continuing advertisers, and hope you, our members, will publicize your own businesses and suggest your business contacts support this campaign. After expenses, money raised helps secure program speakers and lends extra assistance to OML branch priorities.

The 2017-18 OML Member Directory will be available at the October General Meeting. As you do business with advertisers, past and present, please thank them for promoting the AAUW mission. Please call with all suggestions, questions or new client names and wish us "Good luck!"

Pat Lopker,
Advertising Coordinator, 376-5155

2016-17 AAUW OML SPONSORS/ ADVERTISERS

*AAUW members

LAFAYETTE

Asian Accents – Original Designs in Jewelry by K. de Groot*
Creative Alterations – Josef Jamkochain

DIABLO FOODS

Indigo & Poppy – Fine California Living
Jill West Nutrition Consulting*
Matthew McLeod, Realtor – Dudum Real Estate Group
Open Sesame Natural Foods
Persons Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery – Barbara Persons, MD FACS
Ware Designs – Fine Jewelry

MORAGA

AAAAA Rent-A-Space
Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay National Assoc. for Advancement of Female People – Diane Bell-Rettger*
Neighborhood Computers
New Delhi Bistro
Royal Siam Thai Cuisine
ShopMORAGAfirst.com – Moraga Chamber of Commerce
The UPS Store
ViaVienté – Lana Reichick*

ORINDA

Joan Evans* & Angie Evans Traxinger, Village Associates Real Estate
La Piazza Pizzeria Trattoria
Orinda Books
Piccolo Napoli
Redwood Cottage Sea Ranch
Vacation Rental – Elaine Gallaher*
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Soraya Golesorkhi*, Realtor – Coldwell Banker

WALNUT CREEK & Beyond

Bay Alarm Company
East Bay Appliance Guy
Hearing Science of Walnut Creek
Herbs & Spices Catering, Alameda
Maxine Christison Interior Design – Maxine Christison*

Please refer to your current membership directory for complete advertising information.

FUNDRAISING for TECH TREK

"A Taste of Walnut Creek 2017"

20th Annual Restaurant Walk

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017

6:00 to 9:00 pm

Proceeds Benefit TECH TREK Summer Camp Scholarships

Buy your ticket books and join your friends for a delightful evening tasting food from over 20 downtown Walnut Creek restaurants.

Ticket Books will be available for purchase at SHOWCASE, or send checks before September 27 to: Jan Cushman, 143 Meadow View Road, Orinda, CA 94563 For more info: 925-253-1958 or jancushman@comcast.net Make your check for \$30 out to: AAUW-OML Community Outreach Fund.

Thank you for your support!

TECH TREK needs your help...



When we return for Showcase 2017, we will be just three weeks away from OML's 4th annual TECH TREK FUNDRAISER – a Shred•Fest at 5A Rent-A-Space. Plan to clean out old papers and securely SHRED on October 2, 2017.

We need you! Can you ...

- **VOLUNTEER** for a work shift
- **PUBLICIZE** the event in your neighborhood on Next-Door and Facebook.

Please email **LANA REICHICK** today at lanasan@aol.com to tell the Tech Trek committee how you can help. Are you active on Next-Door and Facebook? Will you help us publicize the Shred•Fest? We will provide copy to post online in September, but we need your commitment to help now.

Thank you for all the ways you support Tech Trek scholarships.

AUGUST AT A GLANCE

1 TUES – BRIDGE GROUP

12 noon – Joyce Dickey 825-7991

5 SAT – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

There is no meeting this month

Contact Ksenija Soster-Olmer for info

8 TUES – #3 BRIDGE GROUP

12 noon Joyce Dickey, 825-7991

8 TUES – BOARD MEETING

1 pm – Orinda Community Church

12 SAT – COFFEE ON US

9-11 am – Starbucks in the Rheem Shopping Center

For more info, turn to page 5

14, 28 MON – GOLF

Contact Jan Gee for t-time and venue, 938-1316

16 WED – MEMOIRS & MUSINGS

1-3 pm

Contact Carol Messinger for details, 283-8741

18 FRI – ANYONE WHO HAS READ THE BOOK

The Caliph's House by Tahir Shah

10:30 am – Home of Anne Laemmlen, 1822 Del Rio Drive, Lafayette, (805) 598-9966

24 THU – SEPTEMBER TRIAD DEADLINE

Send items to mlmiller602@gmail.com

28 MON – BIKE GROUP

Contact Ellen Beans, ellen.beans@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER

(look for more listings in the SEPTEMBER issue)

12 TUES – BOARD MEETING

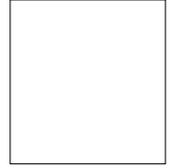
1 pm – Orinda Community Church

19 TUES – SHOWCASE

September General Meeting

9:30 am – Orinda Community Church

AAUW-OML
Database Coord.
52 Wandel Drive
Moraga, CA 94556



SAVE THE DATE!

**LEARN HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

October 12 at 6:30 pm

**Civic Park Community Center Social Hall
(1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek)**

**Sponsored by our nine area AAUW branches
and Junior League, East Bay.**

Have you ever considered getting involved in your local community as an appointee to a board or commission? Do you want to know more about how the process works? How do you access the application? Where do you find vacancies? How do you navigate the process and who can help you? This is your opportunity!!!

Please join *CALIFORNIA WOMEN LEAD* and State Assemblywoman CATHARINE BAKER (keynote speaker at the OML November '16 General Meeting) to learn the process that one should take to be appointed to a board, commission or committee at the local and state levels.

Women are underrepresented in government. Learn how to get involved at the local and state level to start turning this around.

More information will follow.