



Santa Barbara—Goleta Valley
AAUW

Volume 5
Number 2

Coast Connections

October 2014

Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley (CA) Branch

The SB-GV AAUW Monthly Newsletter

Celebrating 100 years of empowering women in the Santa Barbara area.

Be an Informed Voter!

Goleta Water District Candidates Forum

**Goleta Community Center Auditorium,
5679 Hollister Ave, Goleta
Wednesday, October 8, 6 pm - 8pm**

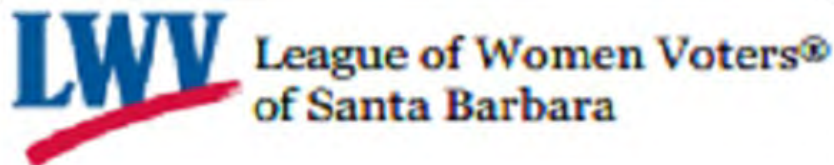
Pros & Cons on Ballot Measures

**First United Methodist Church, Asbury Room
305 Anapamu, Santa Barbara
Sunday, October 12, 3 pm**

**Please plan to attend these important forums so that you
are well prepared for the November 4 election.**

Bring your friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

**Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley AAUW is co-sponsoring
these informative events with the
League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara.**



President's Message

Thank you to those of you who attended our Empowered Woman Luncheon with Valerie Plame Wilson as our speaker. We had a wonderful turnout of almost 90 people, and made approximately \$2000 for our SB-GV AAUW Scholarship Fund. I would like to encourage us to make the Empowered Woman Luncheon an annual event to celebrate women who are leaders and innovators, while supporting our local scholarship efforts. Win-win, as I see it.

As we move into election season, I encourage all of you to check out AAUW California's website at <http://www.aauw-ca.org> and click on the Public Policy tab. You will find information on the statewide propositions which AAUW CA has studied as part of its Public Policy program.

Briefly, AAUW - CA **supports:**

Proposition 47: Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute.

AAUW - CA **opposes:**

Proposition 45: Healthcare Insurance. Rate Changes. Initiative Statute.

Proposition 46: Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits. Initiative Statute.

AAUW - CA is **neutral on:**

Proposition 2: State Budget. Budget Stabilization Account. Legislative Constitutional Amendment.

AAUW - CA did not study **Proposition 48:** Indian Gaming Compacts. Referendum, because it is not related to the AAUW CA Public Policy Priorities.

There is much more information on the AAUW - CA website about these ballot propositions, why AAUW - CA has taken the positions it has, and about the election process in general.

At the local level, we are proud to be co-sponsoring two forums with the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, as outlined on the cover page. I hope you will come to both of these events.

I thank you for being a part of the Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley AAUW branch.

Claire VanBlaricum

967-7523

Thank You to Our Tech Trek Supporters for 2014!

It is only because of the generous support of our branch members, community members, local businesses and foundations that our branch was able to send 26 local junior high girls to Tech Trek this past summer. The cost to the branch per camper this year was \$900, which is why those who have contributed \$900 or more are designated as Sponsors. If you know of a business, individual, or foundation that might be interested in donating to Tech Trek, please contact our Tech Trek fund raising chair, Beverly Kowalsky Ching at 964-5411, or by email at beverlykc@cox.net, and she will follow up.

SPONSOR (\$900 or more)

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* AAUW Member

IGNITING THE SPARK: TECH TREK STEM CAMPS FOR GIRLS

SUMMARY OF SURVEY FINDINGS

Since 1998, AAUW has helped change girls' lives through Tech Trek, an experiential summer camp designed to pique the interest of rising eighth-grade girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). A 2013 survey of Tech Trek alumnae who attended the camp in California between 2006 and 2009 demonstrates the program's lasting effects on many levels, including interest and confidence in STEM fields, decision to pursue STEM curricula, and future career plans.

Interest and Confidence in STEM

A majority of alumnae surveyed believe that Tech Trek increased their interest in science (94 percent), technology (77 percent), mathematics (70 percent), engineering (52 percent), and computer programming (44 percent).

Increased self-confidence was another hugely important result.

91%

of girls reported that Tech Trek boosted their self-confidence in their ability to be successful in science classes, and 78 percent said the same for math classes.



Tech Trek operates on the belief that learning and achieving come from applying oneself rather than from an inborn predisposition. The camp builds a set of values and skills that equip girls to be persistent learners in any sphere and work hard to reach their goals. For many girls, the camp experience provides the life-altering "spark" that ignites their interest and encourages them on a path toward success.

Tech Trek was a life-changing experience for me. It sparked my passion for science and math and gave me the confidence to pursue advanced classes and research opportunities. I honestly don't think I would be where I am today without Tech Trek.

—Former attendee

Decision to Pursue STEM Curricula

Thirty-two percent of respondents said they went on to participate in after-school or extracurricular STEM activities during high school, and many started, led, or joined STEM-focused clubs. Others volunteered for or competed in STEM-related activities.

Students commented on the unique value of their one-on-one experiences at Tech Trek as distinct from what they did at school. Many remembered the camp's creative approach through "eye-opening," hands-on activities.

"The short time I spent at Tech Trek gave me the confidence to do what I love by taking advanced math and science courses," said one respondent, who went on to major in biology and neuroscience.

Tech Trek alumnae surpass the national average in most advanced math and science courses:

GIRLS WHO COMPLETED PRECALCULUS IN 2009



82%

of girls chose to take more science classes in high school because of Tech Trek.

87%

of respondents had completed algebra II, compared with 78 percent of female students and 73 percent of male students nationally.

The majority (73 percent) of respondents were enrolled in four-year college or university programs and expected to graduate within four years from the time of the survey, and 23 percent were attending two-year colleges.

IGNITING THE SPARK: TECH TREK STEM CAMPS FOR GIRLS

SUMMARY OF SURVEY FINDINGS

Career Plans

“Tech Trek made me aware of all the possibilities in career choices. I realized how much of the world is dependent upon researchers and engineers.”

—Former attendee



Alumnae credit Tech Trek’s multi-faceted teaching and learning strategies with positively shaping their expectations and expanding their scope of opportunities in STEM.

After seeing, hearing, and working alongside women scientists and mathematicians during camp, many alumnae say they are less susceptible to negative stereotyping about women in STEM and more determined to achieve in whatever career interests them.



87% of respondents said Tech Trek introduced them to new STEM careers.



73% of respondents said Tech Trek introduced them to STEM college majors of which they were previously unaware.



Summary

Tech Trek opens up STEM possibilities for girls in many contexts. It expands and influences their academic and social lives, starting in middle school and continuing on into their careers. The program seeks out talented girls, sparks their interest, illuminates the value of a college education, and validates their passions. Tech Trek’s exciting, hands-on approach offers a wide variety of experiences that translate into options well beyond the week of camp.



AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential. Find out more on our national website, www.aauw.org. You can also follow us on Twitter (@AAUWSTEM) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/AAUWSTEM). To learn more about AAUW of California Tech Trek camps, visit www.aauw-techtrek.org.



Tech Trek Ice Cream Social Showcased Campers

Grateful Tech Trek campers from summer 2014 attended our annual Ice Cream Social not only to partake of do-it-yourself sundaes but also to share their experiences with family, AAUW members and Tech Trek supporters. I personally love this event, not only as an ice cream addict but also as a Tech Trek supporter. The girls show both poise and enthusiasm as they tell us about the food, the experiments, their boat trip and their teachers.

One thing that particularly struck many of us in the audience was that when they introduced themselves, they referred to themselves as having been “a chemist at Tech Trek” or “an Alternative Energy Specialist at Tech Trek” rather than just saying “Chemistry was my core class.” It showed that they had truly embraced the philosophy of Tech Trek, and they saw themselves as scientists, mathematicians, or engineers.

Our Branch should be proud of enabling so many deserving young women to have such a life-changing experience.

A grateful Tech Trek mother took time to write us to express how impressed she was with the camp. Here are the aspects of the camp that earned her particular praise:

“The science material was challenging. When it is challenging, it feels worthwhile, worth pursuing in the future...

Staff selection was very good. The women seemed interesting and likable...

The girls were assigned to roommates and groups with kids new to them...That's a smart move given possible social dynamics.

My daughter very much looked forward to and enjoyed spending the week in a dorm. ..

Each of the steps for applying to camp and carrying out the complex projects were learning experiences, and show at a practical level how science projects can play out.”



Empowered Woman Luncheon Was a Great Success!

Our September 30 Empowered Woman Luncheon at the Canary Hotel featuring Valerie Plame Wilson as our speaker was a wonderful event. Thank you to those of you who came and to those who spread the word to others in the community. We had almost 90 attendees, many of whom were not branch members. Thank you also to Sharon Hoshida of Granada Books who brought copies of Valerie's books to sell (and sold out!). And a big "Thank You" to Valerie Plame Wilson for donating her time to come speak to us and help raise money for our Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley AAUW Scholarship Fund so we can continue empowering women in the teaching profession here at UCSB.



AAUW WASHINGTON UPDATE

Reason to Celebrate!

The 20th Anniversary of the [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#) was celebrated last month. We have Sen. Orrin Hatch and then-Sen. Joe Biden to thank for this groundbreaking bipartisan legislation, which expands protections for women across the country. On the heels of VAWA's anniversary, the White House [announced](#) the "[It's On Us](#)" campaign against campus sexual violence. AAUW is a proud official [partner](#) of this effort.

Two New Resources from AAUW

The [AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record \(CVR\) for the 113th Congress](#) is now available online! This voting record provides information about senators' and representatives' votes and co-sponsorship on AAUW issues, including economic security, budget and appropriations, education, and civil rights. Hard copies of the CVR are on their way – you can be one of the first AAUW members to get copies of this voter education resource by pre-ordering it via the [upcoming policy events form](#), or sending an e-mail to VoterEd@aauw.org. (Please remember that the CVR and other issue-oriented information are prohibited at voter registration tables. For more information on voter registration laws and best practices, listen to a [recording of the get-out-the-vote conference call](#).)

This week, AAUW released our annual analysis of the [gender pay gap by congressional district](#). The analysis includes a fact sheet for each state with that state's wage gap and the wage gap for each congressional district. Plus, we rank each congressional district from smallest gap to largest. How does your state or district stack up? Use this information to hold your members of Congress accountable!

Cheers to Emma Watson for Her Speech to the UN

United Nations Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson gave a [speech](#) at the United Nations Headquarters that challenged men and boys to become advocates for gender equality. "We want to end gender inequality – and to do that we need everyone to be involved," Watson said. She also said we must stop equating feminism with man-hating because feminism is the "belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities." Watson's speech kicked off the "HeforShe" [campaign](#), a solidarity movement for gender equality.

Our Next Outing!

Later this month our Outings Interest Group will take an excursion to the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park. This is a natural treasure in our own back yard that few of us have explored. The estuary totals 230 acres, 120 of which is owned by USCB as the Salt Marsh Reserve. The remainder is the Salt Marsh Nature Park, which is owned and operated by the City of Carpinteria.

Every Saturday at 10 AM there is a free two hour docent led hike. If interested, please contact Jane Honikman 967-9757 or jane@janehonikman.com so we can select a Saturday that works for everyone!

For more information, go to http://www.carpinteria.com/points_of_interest/marshes/

Make Marion Proud



Ever since Marion Talbot co-founded AAUW, members have debated which issues we should focus on.

Which issues matter to you? Comment today on AAUW's Public Policy Program and bylaws. Follow the link below to weigh in on AAUW priorities.

[Share your opinion on advocacy](#)

October 2014 Calendar



"In October any wonderful unexpected thing might be possible."

Elizabeth George Speare, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

October 8	Wednesday 6 pm - 8pm	Goleta Water District Candidates Forum - Goleta Community Center Auditorium, 5679 Hollister Ave, Goleta. We are co-sponsoring with the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara.
October 9	Thursday 5:30 pm	Steering Committee meeting - Jane Honikman's home, 927 N. Kellogg, SB. Any branch members are welcome to attend.
October 12	Sunday 3 pm	Pros & Cons on Ballot Measures for the November 4 election. United Methodist Church, 3105 Anapamu, SB. Asbury Room. We are co-sponsoring with the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara.
October 14	Tuesday 12:00 noon	Lunch Bunch - Outpost Restaurant at the Goodland Hotel, 5650 Calle Real, Goleta. This is the new hotel that has taken over and revamped the old Holiday Inn. Call Claire VanBlaricum at 967-7523 by Monday afternoon for reservations.
October 21	Tuesday 7 pm	Book Ends - . <i>My Beloved World</i> by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. At the home of Joanie Jones, 1035 May Court, SB. (Off Patterson north of Cathedral Oaks) Our November book will be <i>Empty Mansions</i> by Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell, Jr. Both books are available in paperback.
October 28	Tuesday	Movie Night - Please watch your email the weekend before for information on the film, time and place.
Date to be determined	Saturday	Outing to The Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park - See page 7 for details.

Looking Ahead

November 20, 2014 , 5 - 8 pm

The Forum at Alan Hancock College, 800 S. College Dr. , Santa Maria

Program on **Human Trafficking** with Opal Singleton, President and CEO of *Million Kids*, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that combats human trafficking. Representatives of *Million Kids* serve on the Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.

This program is sponsored by the AAUW branches of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.



Santa Barbara -
Goleta Valley AAUW

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

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

Membership in AAUW is open to people who hold an associate degree or higher. Branch membership offers friendship with like-minded people and an arena for making a positive contribution to your community. Benefits include a subscription to **California PERSPECTIVE**, our quarterly publication. You can join our e-mail lists and attend our annual convention. Membership dues at the branch level include California and National dues.

If you know of someone who you believe would appreciate the opportunity to join our branch, please send them the link to our website (<http://sbgv-ca.aauw.net/>) and give their name and contact information to Ginny Capra at ginnycapra@cox.net.

2015: See You in San Diego!

We can't wait to find new ways to empower women and girls at our 2015 AAUW national convention, June 18–21, 2015, at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego. We're excited to build on the success of the 2013 convention and look forward to planning an even more engaging and more valuable program for you. Register today at <http://convention.aauw.org/register/>

We'll see you there!

Let's get a group together from our Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley branch and take the train!

