



Santa Cruz County Branch, American Association of University Women

October 2025

The Beacon

PLEASE JOIN US

DATE: Saturday, October 18, 2025

TIME: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

WHAT: Annual Tech Trek Luncheon & Raffle

WHERE: Hotel Paradox - 611 Ocean St., Santa Cruz



Please join us at the Annual Tech Trek Luncheon, organized by our Tech Trek Committee. Not only will you be served a tasty three-course lunch, but you will enjoy our Keynote Speaker Team and be introduced to the Middle School Girls our branch funded and sent to Camp Carson in July.

Tech Trek's Camp Carson at UC Santa Cruz is a week-long residential camp during which 80 middle school girls are immersed in all things STEM. (STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Tech Trek Camp gives these girls inspiration and builds confidence in pursuing future STEM-related careers.

SPEAKERS: Members of our Keynote Speaker Team are all aeronautical engineers and hail from [Joby Aviation](#). They are Emma Schneider, Gillian Blumer, and Marissa Moehring. They will speak to us about why experiences like Tech Trek are so important.

Joby is working on emerging technology in a specialized sector of the aviation market. They are building electric helicopter taxis that vertically takeoff and fly 200 mph. This aircraft field called eVTOL, for Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing, is being developed in Santa Cruz--our own backyard--plus in Marina, other U.S. locations, and countries afar.

Tech Trek 2025 campers will join us and share their experiences at camp by explaining why it was such a special opportunity for them.

We'll also hear from Iris Frank of the Pajaro Valley Quilt Association (PVQA). Iris led the group of quilters who made 100 STEM-related quilts so that each Tech Trek camper received one! Wow!

RAFFLE

To fund next year's campers, we will be raffling off 4 STEM-related quilts.

SEE NEXT PAGE ----- YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN



LUNCHEON REGISTRATION AND RAFFLE TICKET ORDER



- Lunch is \$40 per person & includes salad, entree, rolls, dessert, and ice tea & lemonade.

➔ **(1) REGISTER** for this luncheon [HERE](#) AND **(2) BUY** your RAFFLE TICKETS [HERE](#)

- Make sure to **register and pay by Monday, October 6.**
- Questions/need help, contact Kris Sheehan at: krisrsheehan@gmail.com

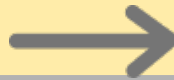
TECH TREK ANNUAL MEETING - RAFFLE QUILTS



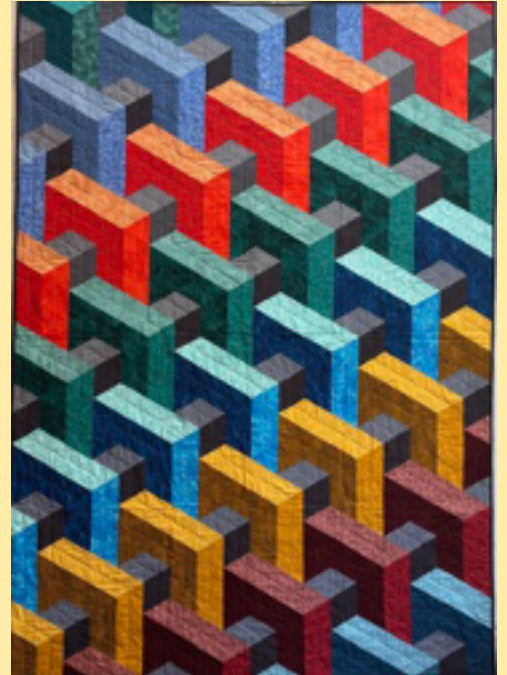
HAPPINESS IS
A BUTTERFLY
representing
SCIENCE



GEARS
representing
TECHNOLOGY



FOR LARGER
IMAGES AND A
MORE DETAILED
DESCRIPTION OF
EACH QUILT,
CLICK, [HERE](#)



INTERLEAVE
WITH ME
representing
ENGINEERING



THE NUMBERS
HAVE IT
representing
MATH



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to the [Pajaro Valley Quilt Association](#) (PVQA) quilters who made quilts for Camp Carlsen's Tech Trek campers this year. And another huge thank you to the South Bay Area Modern Quilt Guild (SBAMQG), the Monterey Peninsula Quilt Guild (MPQG) along with several other quilters who assisted PVQA with this wonderful project. **SAVE THE DATE: PVQA Quilt Show on Feb. 21-22, 2026.**



Board Meetings

Board meetings are held monthly. If you wish to be on the agenda, please contact the President in advance. All members are welcome to attend!

Officers and Committees: 2025-2026

Co-Presidents

Kit Hein 925-305-6301

bythebeach15@gmail.com

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barbarapaige8@comcast.net

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Program VP

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doreen.odonovan@gmail.com

Branch Treasurer

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Secretary - Open

Membership VPs & Directory Editors

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boozerd@aol.com

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roberta@sosbee.com

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Debra Wallace 831-325-9948

debra@karonproperties.com

President's Message



Wow! Were you one of the lucky members who attended the September meeting in Watsonville? How impressive all of those women are. And all are eligible to be members of AAUW SCC. Thank you so much to Shirley Flores Munoz for arranging everything, including delicious treats. I'm hoping we will be able to host more programs in South County, as well as partner with the SCC Libraries. Book groups, maybe you can make suggestions.

Now we look forward to one of the highlights of the year: October's Tech Trek Luncheon. Of course you have made your reservations already, but maybe you would like to invite a guest. Remember, membership is everyone's responsibility. You might have a neighbor or walking buddy who would like to have a great lunch, hear inspiring women speakers and celebrate our Tech Trekkers. Only a few days before the Oct. 6 deadline, so get your reservations now. We'll see you there.

Are you being asked where AAUW CA stands on Prop. 50? It is a conundrum. Always in the forefront when voting comes up in our state, AAUW CA will be out there helping people to understand what the issues are. Read the Public Policy message later in this issue to see how AAUW CA will address this issue.

Of course the question is still: what have you done for AAUW SCC this month? We are still looking for someone to step up and fill the secretary position. When you attend the October luncheon, say "hi" to your old friends, but sit with a new member.

See y'all soon.

Barbara Paige

Kit Hein

Co-Presidents 2025-2026

Tech Trek News

Not only is Fall finally here, BUT, it is TECH TREK Month!!!

We have heard from a number of you purchasing tickets for lunch and sending a donation for Tech Trek girls' lunches and buying Quilt Raffle tickets. A big thank you for that!

We would love to hear from the rest of you that you are coming and perhaps, coming with a guest to our October 18 luncheon at the Paradox Hotel from 11:30 to 1:30 pm. (Flyer front page.) We need to record your registration by October 6 to update Paradox appropriately.

If you have any trouble registering for the luncheon or buying your raffle tickets, please email me, KRISRSHEEHAN@gmail.com or give me a call, 831-915-3630. I am glad to help.

We have an extremely interesting program featuring accomplished women and girls. We will hear from Joby engineers, 2025 Tech Trekkers and about the STEM quilt project.

You, the Members will make the Luncheon and the Quilt Raffle a success. Hope to see you on the 18th.

FUND RAISING. As you all know our Branch pays for each of the Tech Trek girls to attend STEM summer camp. This year it was \$1200 per girl, or \$7200 in total. It will be more next summer. Our fundraising goal for 2026 is \$12,000.

We were fortunate last year to receive very large donations from Granite Construction, Graniterock and several members.



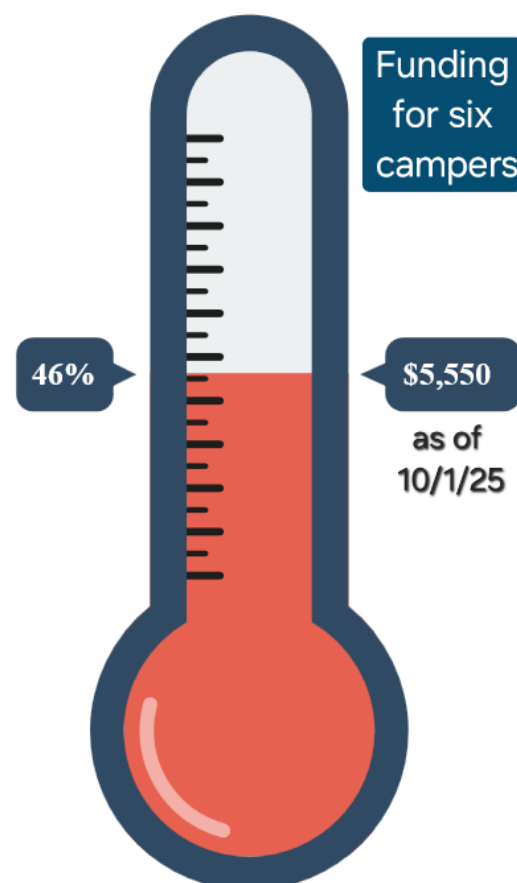
We don't count on the large unexpected donations. We do count on each of you to help in whatever you can (large or small) to contribute to helping young girls further their current and future interest in STEM. So, thank you in advance.

You may send your Tech Trek donation through [PayPal to AAUW Santa Cruz LS&P online](#). Please indicate Tech Trek as your donation choice. Click the link above to donate.

You may also send a check addressing it to AAUW SCC LS&P, including Tech Trek in the notes section of the check. If a check, please mail to Darby Kremers, 2030 N. Pacific Avenue. Unit 117, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-7603.

With appreciation and until next time,
Kris Sheehan

AAUW-SCC Tech Trek GOAL: \$12,000



AAUW Fund News

For fiscal year 2025-26, AAUW has revised its Strategic Plan to emphasize gender equity. As shown on the National website, the opening paragraph is clear:

Our Purpose

AAUW advances equity for women and girls by championing success in higher education — a vital pathway to economic security. For over 140 years, AAUW has led the fight for gender equity through advocacy, funding, and collective action.

The funding for this advocacy and collective action depends heavily on the AAUW Fund, largely the Greatest Needs Fund:

The Greatest Needs Fund is a vital source of unrestricted support that allows AAUW to respond quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities. When you support the Greatest Needs Fund, you enable AAUW to sustain core operations, advocacy efforts, and program expansion. You support initiatives like economic empowerment programs, voter engagement campaigns, and policy advocacy, ensuring AAUW can amplify its impact, adapt to evolving needs, and continue leading the fight for gender equity. Your contributions to this fund are crucial for AAUW's agility and long-term sustainability, empowering the organization to drive meaningful change. These funds are carefully managed to maximize impact, ensuring every dollar serves AAUW's mission.

Supporting the AAUW Fund is simple and flexible.

- You can donate online [HERE](#).
- Alternatively, you can mail your donation (check, payable to AAUW, or credit card information) to AAUW, P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20077-7023. You may already have a postage-paid envelope from a National mailing. If the three suggested donation amounts do not match your intended gift, feel free to write your preferred amount on the "other" line.
- Finally, you can mail your check to me at P. O. Box 556, Freedom, CA 95019, but that extra step delays its arrival in Washington.

Every contribution, regardless of size, is valued and deeply appreciated, as your support at any level helps AAUW continue its mission to advance gender equity for women and girls.

Lynn Cummins, AAUW Fund vice president

Program News

November [Faris Sabbah, Superintendent of Schools in Santa Cruz County](#)

Saturday, November 22nd, 10:15am-12pm, Aptos Library

Join us for a conversation about how current legislation and funding changes are affecting our schools;

December **A Walk in Paris, Local Scholarships Winter Luncheon**

Saturday, December 6th, 11:30am-1:30pm, SCC Community Foundation

Details and registration information to follow in November's Beacon.

Membership News



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! Please welcome 3 new members to our branch:

Mia Haskins miahaskins@gmail.com. 405 Village Circle, Santa Cruz 95060; 760-4221-9189.

Marie Harris, mariemph@outlook.com, 68 Terrace Drive, Scotts Valley 95066. 804-229-8703.

Marjorie Rassmussen, marras101@outlook.com, 539 Saint Andrew Drive, Aptos. 95003. 831-688-9332, 650-515-2944

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Remember to go online and keep your dues up to date. Or...send a check to our treasurer, Darby Kremers, 2030 N. Pacific Avenue, #117, SC 95060. The dues are currently \$120, of which our branch gets to keep and use \$16.

DIRECTORY ALERT / NEW LINK for 2025-2026: Just a reminder that all members have access to the online branch directory. You can access it by going to [AAUW SCC Directory](#). The password is "aauwscc". You can make a print copy of the directory if you wish. Please feel free to contact either one of us (Jeanne or Liz) for further help in accessing the directory.

Best wishes from your Membership CO-VPs Jeanne Jorgensen and Elizabeth Thorington:

Jeanne jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com

Liz elizabeththorington@yahoo.com

BOARD MEETINGS: Board meetings are open to Branch members. Board meetings are held every month, Sept.-May, on the 2nd Monday, 10am-12noon. We meet at the home of Co-president Kit Hein, 208 Elinor St., Capitola. Please text Kit (925-305-6301) if you wish to attend. Click [HERE](#) to view recent meeting minutes.

CA Public Policy News

This year, AAUW California will focus on GOTV for the special election on November 4, 2025. Our focus will be on providing information about and emphasizing the positive impacts of Proposition 50. Please note that we are NOT making a formal recommendation or endorsement. Rather, as a trusted resource, we are providing non-partisan and information-centric information with focus on:

California impacts

AAUW California Public Policy Priorities

Combating misinformation

The importance of saving democracy for Californians

We have two resources to get you started:

Newsletter Article "Investing in Our Democratic Future: Non-Partisan Voter Education Around Proposition 50 in California" - [AAUW CA Prop 50 NL Article.docx](#) - Google Docs

Messaging Guide to follow for postcards and campaigns - [AAUW CA-Prop 50 Messaging Guide](#) - Google Docs

Please feel free to start using these resources immediately. Share them with your branch members, and with your wider (non-AAUW) network. More strategies and materials, including press releases, social media materials, and more, will be coming soon - stay tuned.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 10am-12pm Board meeting; Columbus Day	14	15	16	17	18 11:30am Tech Trek event, see pg. 1
19	20	21 1pm Tues. books	22	23 1pm Thurs. Books	24	25
26	27	28 1pm Reader's Theater	29	30	31 Halloween	

Upcoming Branch Events

Faris Sabbah, Superintendent of Schools in Santa Cruz County

Saturday, November 22nd, 10:15am-12pm, Aptos Library

A Walk in Paris, Local Scholarships Winter Luncheon

Saturday, December 6th, 11:30am-1:30pm, SCC Community Foundation

Announcements to share? The next Beacon will be published in October with a October 20 deadline for entries. Please send entries to debra@karonproperties.com.

Hospitality : Please let our Sunshine Director Audrey Strayer know if you hear of anyone who needs a kind thought or some cheering up due to recent surgery, losses, etc. email: molliej6@cruzio.com, phone: 475-9073

AAUW Mission:

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

AAUW Vision:

Equity for All

AAUW Values:

Nonpartisan

Fact-based

Integrity

Inclusion and Intersectionality

Diversity:

In principle and in practice. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW Santa Cruz County Branch Interest Groups

All work and no play? To counteract that we have a variety of interest groups for our members. If you'd like to join a group or attend one to see if it interests you, please contact the leaders listed below. We'd love to see you.

In order to attract new members and make AAUW's goals more visible to the community, our Membership meetings and luncheons are open to the public. Come join us and bring a friend! You'll find an amazing group of women who offer you friendship and intellectual stimulation.

Book Groups

Our book groups have become extremely popular. Numbers in the groups fluctuate, and if you're interested contact the leaders to see if there's an opening at your preferred time. A new group is not difficult to establish, that's how we ended up with two!

The Tuesday Afternoon Book Group The Tuesday Afternoon book group will meet October 21, 2025 from 1-3 to discuss BURNT A MEMOIR OF FIGHTING FIRE by Clare Clark. Liz Throrington will review the book and we will meet at Marilee Werfhorst's home. Please call 831-234-4581 for directions. All are welcome to join this lively group.

The Thursday Afternoon Books On Oct. 23rd at 1:00 the Thursday book group will meet at Phyllis Taylor's home to discuss A Woman in Berlin, by anonymous. For further information contact Phyllis Taylor at 831-332-3870.

Readers Theater

We will be meeting on October 28th from 1-3pm. If you would like to join or for further info, contact Barbara Lewis, chairperson of this interest group, by telephone at 335-7816 or by email at bobbj44@gmail.com.

New Group?

Do you have an idea for a new group? If so, please contact **Kit Hein**, 925-305-6301, bythebeach15@gmail.com

Bridge

If you are interested in bridge, contact Jeanne Jorgensen, 477-7025. We currently have one group that meets on the 2nd Monday of the month and are always looking to add people to the sub list. Are you interested in getting a regular group together? Or maybe you'd like to do a regular online game. Call 477-7025 or email: jeannejorgensen@hotmail.com

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is back! Contact Andrea Losee andrealosee25@gmail.com if interested in joining this lively group!

Great Discussions

GREAT DISCUSSIONS is an opportunity to get together and discuss all manner of things. And we do! We will not be meeting until this coming summer. For further information contact Phyllis Taylor at 831-332-3870.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is America's largest and oldest discussion program on world affairs. Our group is friendly and diverse. We meet 10 am to 12 pm on the second and fourth Fridays, February through May. Our lively discussions are an easy, interesting way to stay current in this ever-changing world. Members often continue the discussion over lunch at local restaurants. Everyone is welcome. To join us for our 2026 session, please contact Jane Barr, janerbarr@aol.com



Help Us to Help Others

Our philanthropic projects benefit women of all ages, both here at home and across the nation.

Make a donation to remember a family member, friend or colleague, or to honor a birthday, anniversary, graduation or other special occasion.

AAUW Fund

Make checks payable to AAUW and
send to

AAUW

P.O. Box 98045

Washington, DC 20077-7023

Local Scholarships

Make checks payable to

AAUW Santa Cruz Branch SCC-LS&P,
with SCC LS on the memo line and
send to

Darby Kremers

2030 N. Pacific Ave., #117

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Tech Trek

(Girls Science Scholarships)

Make checks payable to AAUW
Santa Cruz Branch SCC-LS&P, with
Santa Cruz County Tech Trek on the
memo line and send to

Darby Kremers

2030 N. Pacific Ave., #117

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

In Memory of/In Honor of _____

Send announcement to _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donate ONLINE:

AAUW Fund

Local Scholarships

Tech Trek

Donate



We are Social!

Follow our AAUW SCC Social Media
accounts by clicking on the icons
below. Please like and share our posts.



Link to Membership Directory: Click HERE ----> [AAUW SCC Directory](#)

Contact Debra for the password or if you need assistance: debra@karonproperties.com

Online Membership Application: Click HERE ----> [AAUW SCC Membership Application](#)