

The Post Graduate

Foothills of El Dorado Branch
November/December Newsletter



Tech Trek

I hope you were able to attend our October 1st meeting, and meet some of the girls that attended Tech Trek. To recap, Tech Trek is a STEM camp for seventh-grade girls going into eighth grade – the age when girls’ participation in the different fields of science statistically drops. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The goal of Tech Trek is to introduce more girls to the possibility of a career in the STEM fields and to build their confidence in their abilities to excel in these areas.

This year eight middle school girls were selected from El Dorado County, along with 120 girls from other Northern California AAUW branches. Seven of these girls attended a week-long camp on the UC Davis campus. The eighth student participated in a week-long robotics virtual camp. Some past campers come back as junior counselors and basically help to run the show.

At camp the girls live on campus in the dorm, eating in the cafeteria and attending morning hands-on classes in genetics, anatomy, engineering, nutrition and media-computer science. In the afternoon there are more fun hands-on workshops, including tours of the UC Davis Veterinarian School and the Chemistry and Entomology Departments. If that does not tire the girls out, in the evenings there are more special events such as a professional women’s night. The girls interview and listen to women talk about their careers in criminology, forensics, police canine work, veterinary medicine, structural engineering, food science and more.

We were able to meet several of the girls, and their families, share a delicious lunch prepared by our own Eileen Burke-Trent, and listen to an inspirational speaker. We also viewed some of the projects that the girls had worked on at camp.

Members, families and girls at Tech Trek luncheon



New Members

We are very happy to welcome three new members to our group: Darcy Umphred Burton, Sandra Hand and Diane Ettlich.

Please be sure to introduce yourself to these very interesting women at our next meeting.

Save the Date

AAUW Home Tour in Sutter Creek
April 22, 2023 The AAUW Home
Tour is back! After what will be a
three-year absence, the AAUW

Home Tour will return on April 22, 2023, and will feature homes in Sutter Creek. Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in this always enjoyable event. The Home Tour is the primary fundraiser for the Amador Branch of AAUW and it supports scholarships for local girls and women. Some funds are used to send young women who will enter eighth grade in the fall to Tech Trek which is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) camp designed to develop interest and excitement in the STEM fields and self-confidence in young women. The funds raised through the Home Tour also support women who are in the Upper Division portion of their degree studies, doing Graduate work

and women who have either delayed or interrupted their education and wish to go back to college to improve their employment opportunities. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a national organization whose mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The Amador Branch of AAUW welcomes new members. Membership is open to all graduates who hold an associate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Additional information about our local branch and membership is available at: <https://amador-ca.aauw.net>

Melinda “Casey” Carlton-Mercado

Tribute to Casey As most of you are aware, long-time member Casey Carlton-Mercado lost her battle to cancer October 1, 2022. Though we haven't had many recent branch gatherings due to covid, for many years Casey held us together with her leadership and event organization skills, as well as her friendship, and she is deeply missed. Her extraordinary contributions to this branch are being honored by having a special Tech Trek Fund in her name. Her family generously asked that memorial donations be given to our branch to support the Tech Trek program. At her memorial, her husband Harry announced that he would match any donations in her honor up to \$2,500.

Many of you have already contributed, but additional contributions may be sent to AAUW, c/o Brink, 3078 Edythe Court, Placerville, CA 95667. The Tech Trek program enables selected girls entering 8th grade (recommended by their 7th grade science teachers) to apply for the limited slots our branch is allocated. They get to spend a week on campus at UC Davis being exposed to a wide variety of Science, Math and Engineering experiences. Fee was \$900 per girl last year, with parents only asked to pay \$50. So donations, fundraising events and community support is vital.



AAUW Achieves Big Wins in California's 2021-22 Legislative Session

Kathi Harper, Chair of the AAUW California Public Policy Committee, wrote the following report. At the stroke of midnight on September 30, 2022, the 2021-22 legislative session officially came to a close as it marked the Governor's deadline for signing or vetoing bills. The AAUW California Public Policy committee is pleased to announce that we achieved a 70% success rate on the bills on our legislative agenda, and 25 of our 36 bills are now law, including 7 of our 8 top priority bills. The following is a brief synopsis, by each pillar of our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security for All Women 8 of our bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, and 1 died in the legislature. The most significant bill under this pillar was AB (Assembly Bill) 92, which we co-sponsored. AB 92 was introduced in 2020, and became a 2-year bill. This bill sought a waiver of supplemental child-care fees for low-income families, with a request for a sliding scale to be applied thereafter. In his 2021 budget, Governor Newsom included \$120 million for 2-years' worth of waivers, but he vetoed the future sliding scale benefits. We are proud of the work we did to get those 2 years of waivers in the budget, so we still consider it a win!

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

Six of these bills were signed by the Governor, one was vetoed, one was approved by the legislature (no signature required) and 2 died in the legislature. Of particular note under this pillar are 3 of our top priority bills: AB 1968, which requires campuses to develop and post uniform guidelines for

reporting sexual assault; AB 2881 which provides additional support for college students with dependent children; and AJR 23 (Assembly Joint Resolution), a Title IX 50th Anniversary Proclamation. Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society 8 of these bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, 1 was incorporated by the Governor into an Executive Order, 1 was approved by and 2 died in the legislature. We saw success on all 4 of our top priority bills in this area: AB 1666, which provides protection for those from other states seeking abortions in California, as well as for those providing services here, from the enforcement of a related civil judgment from their home state; SB (Senate Bill) 523, which requires insurance coverage for over-the-counter contraceptive products; SB 1375, which allows certified nurse-practitioners to perform some early-term abortions; and SCA (Senate Constitutional Amendment) 10. SCA 10 was introduced in the Senate as a measure to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to enshrine in the California constitution the right to an abortion and to contraception. When this measure passed in the Senate, it became Proposition 1.

Your vote is important!

Update from your Treasurer

Norma Brink
As of October 26, cash in El Dorado Savings bank (checking and savings) was \$11,218.18, and the deposit towards 2023 Tech Trek Camp at UC Davis was \$2,329.73. Proceeds from our Tech Trek luncheon and any donations received recently for Tech

Trek have not yet been forwarded to the UC Davis Camp Treasurer. To date we have received special Tech Trek donations of \$200 in memory of member Barbara Smiley and \$865 in memory of prior branch president Casey Carlton-Mercado.

Special Interest Groups

Please consider one of the interest groups offered by our local Branch. They include:

Play Reading Group: Sara Edwards and Janie Wesner

Great Discussions: Patricia Garon

Out to Lunch Bunch: Sara Edwards

4th Wed Book Club: Janet Walker

2nd Tuesday Book Club: Betty Hamilton

Art Club: Hannah Jacobsen

Bridge Groups: Jan Ives

Evening Play Group: Melanie Hale

Evening Art Group: Melanie Hale

Nonfiction Book Group: Patricia Garon

The Out to Lunch Bunch will be meeting at noon on Thursday, November 17th, at South Fork Grill,

located at 364 Town Center Blvd. in El Dorado Hills.

In December, the OTLB will meet at Folsom Thai Cuisine at 2371 Iron Point Road, Suite 100 in Folsom. Please let Sara know the day before if you can attend.

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The 4th Wednesday Book Club will be meeting at 1:00 pm, on November 30th. Please contact Janet for details.

November Chapter Meeting

Our November meeting will be held at the Placerville library, located at 345 Fair Lane. We will be meeting at 10:00 am. Our speaker will be a representative of the Women's Fund of El Dorado.

What is the Women's Fund El Dorado? Please join us, the American Association of University Women, for a program given by Ann Curtis about this local charity led by and for women. Find out how you too can participate in supporting the women of our county. The program will take place on November 12 at 10 a.m. at the Placerville Library. Please Join us. Refreshments will be served.