



AAUW Marin Newsletter

November 2008

Publication of the Marin Branch of the
American Association of University Women.
*AAUW advances equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education, and research.*

Coming Up....

Holiday Party Saturday

December 6, 2008

11 AM to 3 PM

The Club Restaurant
At McInnis Park

Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael



**Luncheon, silent auction,
holiday music, socializing
& afternoon bridge games**

...mark your calendar

**Annual
Tri-Branch Brunch
& speaker program
Saturday
February 7, 2009**

Tech Trek Camps Accomplishing Goals Survey funded by the AAUW Educational Foundation

by Joyce Erlenbach
Marin Branch Tech Trek Coordinator

Those of you who attended the Open House heard some of these statistics, but I would like to inform the branch of the results of a Survey funded by the AAUW Educational Foundation to find out if Tech Trek camps are indeed accomplishing their goals. The methodology was simple. Letters and follow-up postcards were sent to all students who had attended camp in the first four years. The survey used a six point scale for respondents to indicate their agreement, with a strongly disagree to strongly agree grid. Thirty percent of those surveyed responded.

The original goals which were the foundation of the Tech Trek camps are as follow:

1. To encourage a diverse group of young women entering eighth grade to take math and science courses each year throughout high school.
2. To motivate students to attend college
3. To inspire young women to consider careers in math, science, technology and engineering.

How did we do?



Tech Trekkers at Open House.

1. Sixty-eight percent of respondents had completed three or more years of math and 47% completed all three core science courses (biology, chemistry, physics) in high school. To put this accomplishment in perspective, only 12% of high school students nationwide complete the science requirement.

Also, 65% of Tech Trek campers took at least one (AP) Advanced Placement math course and 56% took an AP science class. Again, this relates to less than 3% of female high school students nationwide who take any AP science course and only 6% take AP Calculus.

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Section Meetings and Special Events: November 2008

- Nov 1 Sat COOKING LIGHT.** Informal pot luck, good eats, good company. At home of Jeanne Lese, 492-8424.
- Nov 3 Mon READING ARTS AM.** 10 AM Read *Little Heathens* by Mildred Kalish. Section Leader is Joan Hersko, 100 Thorndale Drive, Apt. 305, San Rafael, phone 492-2656.
BOARD MEETING. 6 PM, San Rafael Corporate Center, 750 Lindaro Street, San Rafael.
- Nov 4 Tues BRIDGE AM.** Leader Bonnie Casassa, 457-6501.
- Nov 5 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
- Nov 6 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
HIKING ADVENTURES. 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Section Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm.
- Nov 10 Mon BRIDGE PM.** Ladies Duplicate. Leader is Pat Zentner, 453-5769.
- Nov 11 Tues CRAFTS.** Members work on personal craft projects including knitting, quilting, needlepoint, scrap-booking, card-making, crocheting. Meets 1 to 4 PM. Section Leaders: Judy Ryan, 883-1028, and Mary Mossteller, 924-3096.
- Nov 12 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
BRIDGE AM. Leader Rosemary Ring, 461-2511.
LUNCH BUNCH. Meets for lunch at a different restaurant each month (members chose the restaurants). SLs Diana Brown, 453-3569, and Libby Byers, 453-2148.
AAUW: BEHIND THE HEADLINES. 6 PM at home of Mary Gomes, Read *Behind the Pay Gap* by Judy Goldberg Day and Catherine Hill. Section Leader Georgia Schall at 898-2701.
- Nov 13 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
HIKING ADVENTURES. 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call SL Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm..
- Nov 14 Fri PLAY READING.** 9:30 AM. Please call Chair Florence Garvie at 388-6825 if you would like to be a substitute for one of the ten members.
FRIDAY FRIENDS. 7:30 PM. Pot luck dinner in a member's home. Section Leaders Jillian Robinson, 453-5854, and Pat Williams, 472-0665.
- Nov 18 Tues DAY BOOKS.** 10 AM. Section Leader is Natalie Whittlesey, 383-8638.
- Nov 19 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
JOAN B SINNA GROUP. 9:30 AM. At home of Jeanne Lese, 64 El Pavo Real Circle, San Rafael, 492-8424. Read *The Memoirs of a Survivor* by Doris Lessing. Section Leader is Dorothy Kilian, 924-2648.
FUTURES OF WOMEN. 7 PM, home of Lorraine Voskanian. Read *Ms. Alcott's E-mail* by Kit Bakke. Section Leader Kathy McCaffrey, 492-1727.
EVENING BOOKS. 7:30 PM, at home of Sharon Levien, 801 Everest Court, Mill Valley. RSVP to the hostess, 383-2135. Read *Divisadero* by Michael Ondaatje. Call Section Leader Sharon Levien, 383-2135 if you need a ride or to carpool (carpooling from the Miller Avenue Safeway).
READING ARTS PM. 7:30 PM. Read *The Maytrees* by Annie Dillard. Section Leaders are Ann Jessup, 461-6078, and Judy Ryan, 883-1028.
- Nov 20 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
HIKING ADVENTURES. 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call Section Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm.
BRIDGE AM. Leader Betty Jennings, 472-0359.
- Nov 21 Fri BOARD GAMES.** 7 PM at home of Ann Thomas, 42 Parkview Circle, Corte Madera. Trivial Pursuit, Quiddler, Balderdash, Cranium, and others. Section Leader Ann Thomas, 924-9559.
- Nov 25 Tues MEET ME AT THE MOVIES.** Movie followed by critique & social time over coffee, wine, dessert or whatever at a nearby location. SLs are Susan Gilardi, 924-1793, and Mary Mossteller, 924-3096.
- Nov 26 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
- Nov 27 Thurs THANKSGIVING.**
- Nov 28 Fri POKER.** 7:30 PM. Play Baseball, Seven Card Stud, Criss Cross, No Peekee and other variations on the great American pastime. All levels of play welcome. Section Leader is Dee Skore, 472-1072.
BRIDGE. Evening Couples Duplicate. Section Leader Terry Gordon, 897-7692.



Occasional Sections

- AAUW: Behind the Headlines:** This section will read and discuss AAUW Research and Issues papers. Meeting on the second Wednesday of the month as desired. If you are interested in joining or just knowing more about this group contact Georgia Schall at 898-2701 **for more** information.
- COOKING LIGHT.** Informal pot lucks emphasizing light cuisine, quarterly at members' homes. Section Leader is Jeanne Lese, 492-8424.
- WEEKENDERS.** Saturday or Sunday hiking any weekend. Section Leader is Dee Skore, 472-1072.
- ART INTEREST GROUP.** This group plans visits to museums or art galleries, for example a special exhibit at the de Yong or Legion of Arts. Members carpool and pay for own admission and may have no host lunches at a nearby café. Call Section Leader Gerrie Young, 461-3222, to get on her email list for events.

Tech Trek Survey

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2. Of the 226 survey respondents, 96% were currently enrolled in college.

3. 61% of respondents listed at least one career possibility that would draw heavily on math, science or computer technology.

An even more compelling number was revealed by the survey. Forty-seven percent of respondents said that they had gone into their Tech Trek experience thinking that they might be interested in a career involving math or science. After completing the camp, 63% agreed or strongly agreed that they would be interested. This represents a 16% increase based on camp attendance. "Tech Trek really was the turning point for almost 16% of the participants that set them on their current career paths."

We are definitely making an impact with Tech Trek. Those of you who met three of our four 2008 attendees at the Open House saw the excitement and enthusiasm that attending Tech Trek generates.

Thank you for your support.

Holiday Party Singers Wanted!!

Are you in good voice, or at least willing voice? Please call or e-mail Noreen Hook (415/459-7741 or email norhoo@comcast.net), if you'd like to help liven up our Holiday Party on December 6 by joining a group of members singing old holiday standbys as we get together at the start of the holiday season.



Meet Me at the Movies:

current movie reviews by section members



Ghost Town

by Pamela Womack

On Tuesday, September 23rd, the Movie Group selection was *Ghost Town*.

Ghost Town, starring Ricky Gervais (from the British series "The Office"), Greg Kinnear and Tea Leoni, is a romantic comedy filled with surprises. Gervais plays Bertram Pincus, DDS, a lonely, somewhat cynical dentist living in Manhattan. Pincus goes in for a routine colonoscopy and somehow dies briefly while under general anesthesia. Following the procedure, he finds he can see and interact with the dead. They find out about his gift and follow him, trying to convince him to help them help the loved ones they've left behind. Enter Frank (Greg Kinnear), a self-involved womanizer who died leaving a widow AND a girlfriend. Frank's widow (Tea Leoni) has found love again with a handsome humanitarian Richard. Frank nags Bertram into befriending his widow and trying to convince her to not marry Richard. As Bertram falls for (Tea), what starts out as a funny film turns into a very touching one, with thought-provoking messages for a critical viewer on many levels.

Gervais is a talented actor that infuses his character with much heartfelt subtlety (and more than a dash of irony) as he journeys through the film's events. He really carries the film, with Kinnear's performance adequate (but not all that special) and Leoni her lovely self as the bright but distracted historian/widow. Our diverse group gave this film a solid 4 on average, not Oscar material but entertaining and surprisingly meaningful for a romantic comedy. More than one agreed it

was a nice change from the rather empty American comedies that seem to be the norm in US film these days. And with a PG-13 rating at that.

There are many serious messages beneath the fluffy exterior of this comedy: the fear of "the ordinary" for so many (dentists, colonoscopy procedures, even getting ready for a first date), individual loneliness or alienation in modern society, death and the "loose ends" it can leave behind for so many of the living. There is artful symbolism throughout that reinforced the themes – for instance, the project Leoni is engaged in during the movie centers on Egyptian sarcophagi and which artifacts others included in their coffins for their "journey into the world beyond". Another viewer noticed that meaningful odors were often commented on by various characters at different points. This really is a bit of "literature on film", with much of the subtlety authors achieve in the written word vocalized instead in this audio visual medium. Very few of these quality touches come through in the movie trailer, so the depth this little film achieves while keeping viewers engaged and entertained is surprising. We were all ready to have a laugh or two when this movie was chosen, and it delivered on that, but also generated a tear here or there before its surprise ending. So don't forget the Kleenex, either!

For any of you who enjoy British humor, the Movie Group members also highly recommend "As Time Goes By", a television comedy series with Dame Judy Dench on many PBS stations and the movie "Madly, Truly, Deeply", starring Alan Rickman, available through many DVD rental services.

Scholarship Fund Appeal

by Chris O'Neill

You should have recently received in the mail a letter from Joyce Erlenbach, Tech Trek Coordinator, and Chris O'Neill, Scholarship Fund Chair, asking for your cash donation to the AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund, our 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organization that allows us to establish our legacy in Marin County as enablers of education for women and girls. It is from the Fund that we give our scholarships to middle school girls to attend Tech Trek camp at Stanford University and award the annual scholarships to financially needy women at College of Marin and Dominican University. Know that 100% of your donation goes directly to the Fund. Any contribution amount that you can give is much appreciated by the Board as well as the scholarship recipients.



Silent Auction!

Please scour your closets for treasures or ask your favorite restaurant or manicurist for a gift certificate to donate to the AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund Silent Auction on December 6. Call Chris O'Neill at 457-0862 to arrange bringing your donation to her home at 186 Riviera Drive, San Rafael, **by November 22**, or call her a call to make arrangements to have it picked up. The value of the donation should be at least \$10.

If you want to know how our senators and representatives have voted on issues of import to AAUW, the Association's Congressional Voting Record for the 110th Congress is now available. Call Cherie Sorokin, 415 789-5305 and she will arrange to get you a copy.

Ed Foundation/Legal Advocacy Fund Corner

by Georgia Schall, Education Foundation Co-Vice President

Did you know? Each year when we turn over our donations to the AAUW Educational Foundation, we designate a fund of our choice to receive our contribution! Last year we designated our EF Funds to the Jo Harberson Research & Projects Grant # 4313. For those of you who do not know her, she works tirelessly to encourage support for the Educational Foundation often offering to double your donation with her own funds! Her thanks to us follow:

"Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the Marin branch designation to the Research & Projects Grant # 4313 in my name. I'm honored that you chose to contribute funds to completing a grant that will make a California community a better place to live or help a deserving woman get more education. I'm hoping for a community project focusing on underserved girls.

Please continue to designate #4313 until it is fully funded and becomes stipend-producing. Then it can go to work!"

Other news in our corner is that we have received additional donations to EF through matching grants from Chevron Corp. thanks to Mary Mossteller and Levi Strauss Co. thanks to Margie Couvillion, and thanks to Patricia Calhoon for her recent contributions to both EF and LAF. We will also be receiving donations from the Marathon Bridge Group! Thank you ladies, one and all for your continued support!

Welcome New Members!

Amy Anderson, a friend of Chris O'Neill, 26 Fawn Drive, San Anselmo 94960. 456-6974, aanderson726@hotmail.com. Amy is a literacy coach with the Hayward Unified School District and look forward to participating in Cooking Light and museum tours.

Sandra Adams (not to be confused with SONDRADAMS), 818 S. Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae 94904, 461-6605, msg4sandra@earthlink.net, is a retired physical therapist. She is interested in holiday gift wrapping, reading arts AM, Meet me at the Movies, Lunch Bunch and Museum tours.

Carin Sinrod, 138 Crescent Rd., CM 94925, 927-3490, cell 203-5001 and email mcwileys@mac.com, has a law degree, and is interested in holiday gift wrapping, and crafts. Carin's daughter was one of this year's Tech Trek girls.

Janice Cotton, 650 Miller Creek Road, San Rafael 94903. 479-4252. email jancotton@comcast.net. Janice, who spoke to our branch in February about the Buck Center, is a retired management analyst. She is interested in evening books, bridge and movies.

Marilyn Paulsen, 612 Via Casitas, Greenbrae 94904, 1925-9327. She is a retired special education teacher, and interested in the Fall Open House, Spring Scholarship Luncheon, reading groups, play reading, meet me at the movies, lunch bunch, museum tours and weekends. Golf is her hobby.