

AUGUST 2022

THE SPOKESWOMAN

<https://davis-ca.aauw.net>

Kudos to Tech Trek Volunteers

By Estelle Shiroma

Volunteer Coordinator for Tech Trek at UCD

After two years of virtual camp, the 2022 Tech Trek science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) camp at UC Davis was held in person from July 17 through July 23 under the leadership of camp co-directors, Susan Wheeler (Sacramento) and Martha Rees (Nevada County). COVID-safe procedures were in place throughout the week, requiring

extensive planning and execution. The campers were housed at Thompson Hall where core classes were held in computer science and media arts, engineering, anatomy/physiology, genetics, and nutrition/food science.

During the week, campers also took tours of on-campus facilities such as the Veterinary School and the Mondavi Arts



COVID-19 testing station as campers arrive with their families on the first day of Tech Trek at UC Davis.

In This Issue:

[click to be directed to article](#)

[Kudos to Tech Trek Volunteers](#)

[Thank You Notes from Tech Trekkers](#)

[Branch Board Planning Meeting](#)

[AAUW-CA Public Policy News: When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation!](#)

[AAUW California News](#)

[AAUW National News](#)

[UNA Updates](#)

August-September Calendar

Saturday, August 6 from 9am to noon: Davis Branch Board Planning Retreat

Saturday, August 13 at 9 am: Zoom Book Group discussion on "The Night Portrait: A Novel of World War II and da Vinci's Italy" by Laura Morelli

Friday, August 19 at 5:30 pm: Zoom Celebrate the 19th, Share experiences and photos from your summer travels (members traveled to Honduras, Chile, Ireland, Scotland, UK, US, and beyond)

Thursday, September 8 at 7 pm: Davis Branch Board Meeting

Saturday, September 10 at 9 am: Zoom Book Group discussion on "A Ballad of Love and Glory" by Reyna Grande. The author lives in Woodland and will join us for this meeting.

Kudos to Tech Trek Volunteers Continued

Center. Personal growth and self-discovery activities were offered in confidence-building along with opportunities to learn about going to college and learning about STEM careers from the perspective of women working in these fields.

An enthusiastic group of about 20 volunteers assisted during the week to support camp activities and came from branches including Sacramento, Citrus Heights-American River, Roseville-S.Placer, Nevada County, Davis, Woodland, Napa, North Lake Tahoe, and Marysville-Yuba City. We are especially grateful for the Davis and Woodland branch members who came to the rescue at the last minute when we needed extra help.



Campers listen to keynote speaker, Jayme, an astrophysicist from Alabama.

On the first day of camp, Sunday, July 17, in 100 degree temperatures, three volunteer nurses, along with numerous volunteers, helped to process 90 campers through COVID testing as they arrived at camp in staggered shifts with their families that traveled from far distances in northern California. Miraculously, of the 90 campers, only one tested positive and unfortunately could not attend camp. Camp Nurse Leslie Rubin



SAFE Credit Union Bite of Reality Night

reported that there were several other COVID cases among campers during the week, but the advance planning to ensure the safety of campers and staff proved to be highly effective.

Local volunteers included Marianne Hallet and Carolyn Van Hoecke from the Woodland branch along with numerous Davis members and friends (Tanya Noda, Cathy Tkach, Trish Wright, Maya Yoshikawa, Rhonda Reed, Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, Gail Johnson, Alexandra Vigil and former Trekkers (Isabella Yan (Tanya's daughter), Sally Ho, Tate Chatfield, and Nithmi Jayasundara). Tanya was the heroine of the day when we encountered difficulties in connecting tablets to the UCD wireless network on the day before the start of camp. Tanya and Isabella also helped on multiple occasions during the week to set up the tablets.

On Tuesday, July 19, volunteers helped at the SAFE Credit Union Reality Fair, which is always a hit with the campers. Participants were given hypothetical real life situations (e.g., single mom with three children, married couple with one spouse working

Kudos to Tech Trek Volunteers Continued

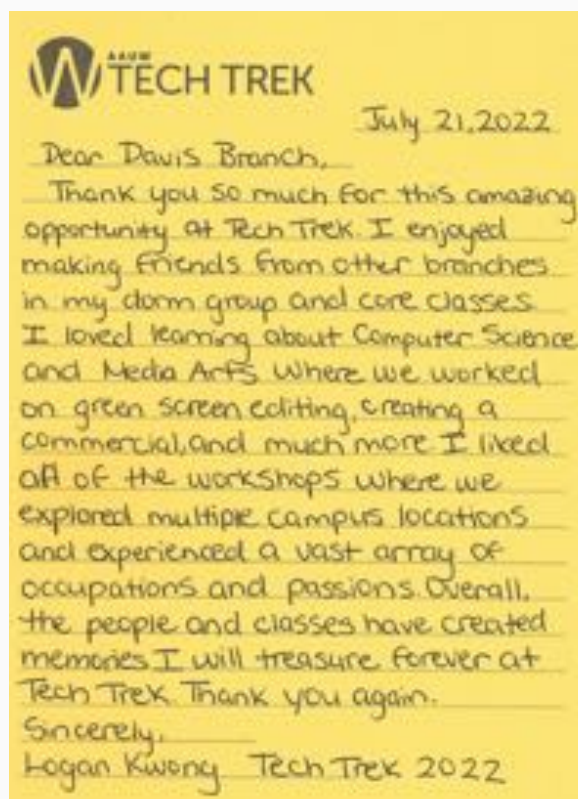
that doesn't have a car) and a household budget to manage. Volunteers posed as realtors, rental property managers, bankers, and salespeople selling cars, furniture, appliances, clothing, child care services, insurance, etc. The campers then had to make decisions as to whether they should buy a home or rent, purchase a car (new or used) or take public transportation, as examples. It was a fun evening for volunteers to interact with the campers.

As camp drew to a close on Saturday, July 23, a small cadre of volunteers (Tanya, Tate, and Nithmi) worked with junior counselors to pack up supplies and teaching materials.

The many volunteers are much appreciated for their time and contributions in making the 2022 camp a huge success. As volunteer Cathy said, "What a rich week (we) provide to the girls!" Tech Trek is only a week long but for the girls who attend, it may be a life-changing experience that sets their paths for the future. We'll look forward to hearing from Davis branch Tech Trekkers Athena, Logan, and Regina at the fall event where the Trekkers will talk about their camp experience. Details on this upcoming event will be provided soon.

Thank You Notes from Tech Trekkers

Davis Branch Tech Trek scholarship recipients Athena, Logan, and Regina sent heartfelt notes to the branch letting us know how much they appreciated the camp experience.



Notes from Logan Kwong



Notes from Regina Lim

Thank You Notes from Tech Trekkers Continued

"It means so much to me to be part of this community I've never really been exposed to before."

ATHENA MURPHEY

 AAUW
TECH TREK

7-21-22

Dear AAUW Davis Branch,

Thank you for the fantastic and rare opportunity of attending AAUW Tech Trek. It has shown me that science really is a career option for me. My highlight for the week has been the workshop on electric motors. My group worked extra hard until our motor worked flawlessly. Although my first choice was engineering, my core class, nutrition, was pretty great. Especially when we made jam and cheese. Our days are so packed, it felt like weeks. Although I had to work hard to get here,

I could never have done it without my amazing science teacher, Miss. Shelton, and of course all you phenomenal people in the Davis Branch. I couldn't have even gotten through the interview without your support. It means so much to me to be a part of this community I've never really been exposed to before. And even though most of them live far away, I've made friends for life! It's like everyone here is of equal intelligence, so it seems like smart is just the average. I'm so grateful for all that you've done to get me here. I'm positive it's changed my vision of my future.

Sincerely

Athena Murphey

Notes from Athena Murphey, Pg.1

Notes from Athena Murphey, Pg.2

Davis Branch Annual Planning Retreat

On Saturday, August 6, Davis branch board members met for three hours to set goals and priorities for the 2022-23 year. The branch programs will promote AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls. The major goals are to expand engagement with existing members and increase membership; support and mentor the UC Davis student organization; and

increase visibility with community partnerships. The discussions included member outreach and communications, documenting the Davis branch history, our partnership with UNA-USA Davis Chapter, fundraising for branch programs, Tech Trek scholarships, and planning events and activities for the year.

AAUW-CA Public Policy News: When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation!

Since 1881, AAUW has been a leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW encourages women voters to get involved in the political process and gain a better understanding of the impact legislative action can have on our lives.

The recent US Supreme Court Dobbs decision on abortion has stimulated action in many states across the nation, including California. Our legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed AB1666 which will enable a woman coming into California to receive an abortion to be protected from lawsuits originating in her home state. This bill was co-sponsored by AAUW CA! A further step protecting a woman's right to make personal medical decisions is a Constitutional Amendment, Proposition 1, which will be on the November 8 ballot. It would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the state from denying or interfering with an individual's reproductive freedom in her most intimate decisions, which includes the

fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. AAUW CA supports this Constitutional Amendment.

Congressional races are particularly important this November. Redistricting after the 2020 Census has changed the boundaries of many Congressional districts. In the current partisan climate, we need to be aware of what is at stake in both our national and state upcoming elections. Your current member of Congress may no longer represent you – be sure to become informed soon on the candidates for Congress in your district. As you sort through all this, please reflect on priority issues affecting us, our daughters, and granddaughters, and evaluate candidates' positions on these issues.

If you are a leader in your branch, make your October program a focus on the election. You may want to consider a Candidates Night. Before a partisan election, AAUW branches may host

AAUW-CA Public Policy News: When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation Continued

candidate forums to which all major-party candidates in that election are invited. AAUW branches with 501(c)(4) status must make a thorough and good faith effort to ensure the participation of at least two candidates for a

specific office but may proceed with a forum if only one candidate accepts. AAUW branches with 501(c)(3) status may only proceed with a candidate forum event if at least two candidates have accepted the invitation.

Here are resources to get helpful, non-partisan information:

AAUW CA website: aauw-ca.org Public Policy section will soon have more detail on priority issues and questions to ask of candidates.

AAUW website: aauw.org/policy/advocacy/tool-kit Ideas for branch activities, C/U partners, and specifics for 501 c 3 and 501 c 4 branches.

CA Secretary of State website: www.sos.ca.gov voter info, Ballot Initiatives.

State and County Voter guides – mailed to all registered voters in October.

www.wedrawthelinesca.org – maps of newly re-drawn congressional districts

Register to vote, if you haven't already! And if you have recently moved you need to update your information with your County Registrar of Voters! Voting is a powerful tool to bring about change!

AAUW CA News

The leadership team has been working diligently on developing the state's 2022-2023 plans. Following much anticipation, here is what they're working on:

Building Membership	Strengthening Connection with the Branches	Building Branch Stability	Launching a New State Project
<i>How?</i>	<i>How?</i>	<i>How?</i>	<i>How?</i>
Through marketing initiatives.	With more resources, communications, and ideas.	By identifying realistic solutions for finding leaders	Launching a New State Project called Gov Trek that will excite and encourage young women to enter public service and politics

AAUW Elections and Nominations

Charmen Goehring, Nominations & Elections Chair,
nominating@aauw-ca.org

If you are enthusiastic about what we do as AAUW members, it is time to consider becoming a candidate in the upcoming AAUW California election in April 2023. This year, we will be electing three two-year term directors, a CFO, and a president-elect. Serving on the state board is a great experience and a way to help guide AAUW California into the future. More information will be available in September.

Why did YOU become an AAUW Leader?

We want to know! Send two sentences answering this question to connection@aauw-ca.org for a chance to have yours featured in the new "Leaning into Leadership" section of the CA Connection.

AAUW National News

Get involved and make sure your voice is heard by becoming a Two-Minute Activist. AAUW provides all the tools you need to call or send messages to your Congress members, contact your State legislators about important issues, and more. Sign up [HERE](#) to get regular alerts to send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, ending sexual harassment, equality in education and other pressing topics.

UNA Updates

We are delighted to announce that our UNA fundraising effort for UNICEF/Ukraine Relief enabled us to send a second donation to the U.S. Committee for UNICEF at the end of July. Together with the April donation, we contributed a total of \$5,000 that UNICEF gratefully applied to their programs for refugees in Ukraine and surrounding countries. A big, heartfelt thank you to those of you who contributed to provide desperately needed help for children and mothers.

On Friday, September 23, the UNA Northern California Division will join with the Southern California Division and Hawaii UNA to present a virtual climate program in preparation for COP27 in Egypt (similar to the successful Western Region Climate Forum last year before COP26 in Glasgow, attended by more than 300 participants). Details to follow when available.

The theme for this year's United Nations Day in late October appropriately is "Nourishing Peace," to illustrate the intersection between food security and conditions conducive to peace. Scarcity of sufficient and nutritious food creates unrest, and conflict is a threat to food supply chains with effects rippling out far beyond just one country or region. We have all seen how the interruption of wheat shipments from Ukraine*) created famine in



UNA USA

Davis Chapter

Somalia and elsewhere. No firm plans for a Davis chapter program have been developed yet.

Through lengthy, almost secret, negotiations spearheaded by UN Secretary General António Guterres and involving Türkiye, as well as delegates from Ukraine and Russia, the Black Sea Grain Initiative was reached on July 27 to allow wheat shipments from three Ukrainian ports via the Black Sea amid the ongoing war. The first ship sailed on August 2.

On October 21 the UNA-USA national office will host a virtual Inter-Generational Model UN in which all ages can participate, no special UN expertise necessary to be a delegate. Our region held successful "IGMUNs" for a number of years. Step into the shoes of UN ambassadors and debate a range of issues on the UN agenda, such as food insecurity, refugee crisis, children's health and safety, oceans and climate. If interested in participating, check future updates at www.unausa.org or contact Verena Borton at verenaborton@gmail.com

BE AS ACTIVE AS YOU CAN, BUT STAY A MEMBER.