



## President's Message

On October 18, 2019 NASA astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir made history with the world's first-ever all-female spacewalk. Koch and Meir stepped outside the International Space Station (ISS) at 7:38am, as NASA was [live-streaming](#) the entire spacewalk on YouTube.

It has attracted plenty of attention from those who are excited to see women in science crossing yet another barrier and are also attuned to the significance of the moment for girls and young women. "There are a lot of people that derive motivation from inspiring stories from people that look like them and I think it's an important aspect of the story to tell," Koch said at a recent news conference.

There's no doubt that the sight of two women getting down to work outside the ISS, hovering above the glowing blue Earth, is meaningful for young people who remain hungry for female role models. "[You can't be what you don't see](#)" is a common refrain on the importance of diverse representation in science, tech, and beyond. Our own AAUW Tech Trek program is rooted in this important value.

As the New York Times notes, "For some observers, the change underscored the challenges faced by women in the space program and other fields where equipment has historically been designed with men in mind. The spacewalk had originally been scheduled for March 2019, but was scrapped due to safety reasons, NASA did not have two size medium space suits available, perhaps displaying an internal institutional bias.

Women were not admitted into the astronaut program until 1978, and an American woman did not fly into space until [Sally Ride](#) did so in 1983. (Sally was elegantly portrayed by Liz Bathgate in our successful Women in History program for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, 1995 - 2012). In 1984, [Kathryn D. Sullivan](#) became the first American woman to perform a spacewalk. Women astronauts have since made inroads but remain in the minority. Only 12 of the current 38 astronauts are women.

But stories and pictures of women carving out paths on their own in the midst of male-dominated fields can also play into the cultural trope of the “exceptional woman”—the Amelia Earharts or Marie Curies of the world, so unique in their courage, intelligence, and strength that their respective fields had no choice but to make room for them.



The danger of this kind of narrative is that it fails to sufficiently challenge the status quo. It’s fairly easy to make space for a tiny handful of powerful women while keeping sexist norms in place. It’s a lot harder to overhaul an entire culture so that all women—along with people from other marginalized communities—are empowered to pursue, and succeed in the careers of their choice.

That’s why it’s so exciting to see the video of Koch and Meir working together, rotating in and out of darkness. Meanwhile, another woman, Stephanie Wilson, NASA spacewalk’s coordinator at the Mission Control Center, assists them from some 220 miles below. It’s a reminder of what’s possible when women collaborate with one another, and what it might look like to live in a world where such situations are so common as to be unremarkable.

But we’re not there yet. For now, women devoted to ushering true equality into existence may feel a bit like astronauts themselves: Excited to be outside the realm of the familiar, sometimes working together in the dark, sometimes in the sunlight, which is only a few minutes away.

Synopsis of “The metaphorical power of NASA’s first all-women spacewalk” by Sarah Todd. October 18, 2019. To read the entire article at Quartz at *Work*, an online news outlet go to <https://qz.com/work/1730896/nasas-all-female-spacewalk-is-a-powerful-metaphor/>

*Linda Slater*

Administrative Officer  
AAUW, Hayward-Castro Valley Branch

**HAYWARD/CASTRO VALLEY AAUW BRANCH**

**BUDGET FOR FY 2019-20**

<b>TECH TREK</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>MEMBER/COMMUNITY EVENTS</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Income		Income	
Tech Trek SPF Reserve	\$ 449	Debit Bank Acct	\$1,500
Fundraising Event(s)	\$1,430		
Donations/Honors/Memorials	\$5,071	Expenses	
Tech Trek Parent Donations	\$ 350	Programs/Events	(\$ 500)
		Community/Collaboration	(\$ 500)
Expenses		Installation Luncheon	(\$ 300)
Sonoma State College (7 girls)	(\$7,000)	Event Advertising	(\$ 200)
Fundraising Event	(\$ 300)		
		Net Member/Community Events	<b>\$ 0</b>
Net Tech Trek	<b>\$ 0</b>		
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		<b>BRANCH OPERATIONS</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
<b>NCCWSL* SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	Income	
Income		Debit Bank Acct	\$ 708
Debit Bank Acct**	\$1,833	Branch Dues (\$15)	\$1,000
Fundraising Event(s)	\$ 500	General Donations	\$ 500
Donations/Honors/Memorials	\$ 800	Angel Fund Donations	\$ 50
Expenses		Expenses	
Scholarship (NCCWSL*)	(\$1,650)	IBC Dues	(\$ 30)
Fundraising Event	(\$ 150)	Convention - National	(\$ 500)
		Convention - State	(\$ 500)
Net Local Scholarship	<b>\$1,333</b>	Newsletter - Printing/Postage	(\$ 120)
		Directory - Printing/Mailing	(\$ 120)
		AAUW Insurance	(\$ 468)
		Website	(\$ 120)
		Administrative Officer	(\$ 200)
		Finance Officer	(\$ 200)
		Net Administration	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>AAUW FUNDS</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>		
Income		<b>BANK ACCOUNT</b>	<b>\$7,034</b>
Fundraising Events	\$1,100	<b>BALANCE JULY 1, 2019</b>	
Tri-Branch Luncheon	\$ 100		
Interest Income - CD	\$ 60	<b>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT</b>	<b>\$10,073</b>
Donations/Memorials	\$2,000		
		<b>PRUDENT RESERVE</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
Expenses			
Branch AAUW Funds EF	(\$2,000)		
Branch AAUW Funds LAF	(\$1,000)		
Fundraising Event(s)	(\$ 100)		
Tri-Branch Luncheon	(\$ 100)		
EF Assessment	(\$ 60)		
Net AAUW Funds	<b>\$ 0</b>		

\*National Conference of Collegiate Women Student Leaders

\*\*Earmarked member donation for NCCWSL

Approval by Board October 7, 2019

# Public Policy

*In July 2019, AAUW Senior Writer Christina Folz, prepared this roundup of recent articles which highlight the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team's fight for fair pay in the wake of their World Cup victory.*

Shortly after the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team (USWNT) clinched the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup on July 7th with a 2-0 win against the Netherlands, the crowd in the stadium started chanting "Equal Pay!" It was a powerful reminder of the battle that the USWNT – and women everywhere – have been fighting for years: to be paid the same as men for doing the same work.



[\[The New York Times\]](#)

Or, in some cases, for doing even more work. The USWNT has been the best in the world for decades. According to a lawsuit filed by the team in March, in recent years they have played more games than the men's team, earned larger viewing audiences, and generated a greater share of profits and revenue for the U.S. Soccer Federation. The women have now won four World Cup titles and four Olympic medals. Yet in some cases they earn just 38% of men's pay per game.

[\[The Atlantic\]](#)

Just how much money is at stake? A lot. This World Cup, 24 teams competed for \$30 million in prize money from FIFA — which is a mere 7.5% of the Men's World Cup prize of \$400 million in 2018. As the winners, the USWNT will split \$4 million of these funds.

[\[CNBC\]](#)

The women's team is losing out on bonuses as well. If the women were entitled to the same World Cup bonuses as the U.S. men's national team, their rewards would six times larger by the time they reached the quarterfinals.

[\[The Guardian\]](#)

They're not alone in being underpaid. [AAUW research](#) shows that, on average, women working full-time are paid 80% of what their male counterparts make – a figure that has changed by less than a nickel during the 21st century. Moreover, a gender pay gap persists across all demographics, in every part of the country, and in nearly every line of work, including female-dominated professions like teaching and nursing.

That's why AAUW is committed to achieving gender pay equity by advocating for state and federal equal-pay laws like the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), working with employers to ensure fair workplace practices, and teaching women to negotiate for more money. It's an approach that focuses on driving change while empowering women to advocate for themselves – because, as *Washington Post* columnist Sally Jenkins said of the USWNT: "The U.S. women didn't wait for their moment. They demanded it, and that's what real power is."

## Upcoming events



### Book Club

**When: Monday, November 18, 2-4 pm**

**Where: Margaret Hankle's home**

The October meeting at Helene Victor's home was an especially delightful afternoon. After we enjoyed Helene's delicious apple crisp (with fruit from her yard), Ruth Rymer facilitated an enthusiastic discussion of Jasmin Darznik's fascinating historical novel, *Song of a Captive Bird*, about the most famous (or infamous) woman poet in 20th century Iran.

After this wonderful start, the group looks forward to another fine year of good friends, delicious food and engaging books and hopes more branch members will join them.

November will feature Carol Jarvis who will review *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett. The meeting will be at the San Leandro home of Margaret Hankle, 2244 Heathrow Place, from 2-4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

There will be no book group meeting in December. January through June will include *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou and several book reviews.

All branch members are invited to join this active group. If you are a regular member who cannot come or are bringing a guest, or you are new to the group, please contact the hostess so she can plan refreshments and seating. If you have any questions, contact Barbara Jones at [bb\\_jones@pacbell.net](mailto:bb_jones@pacbell.net).



**HAYWARD-CASTRO VALLEY BRANCH**

*Cordially invites you to our*

# Annual Holiday Party



**SAVE THE DATE:**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019**

**4:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

Hayward Public Library  
Fremont Bank Community Room  
888 C St., Hayward, CA



## Tech Trek Gears Up to Send Another 7 Girls to Summer Camp



For the past three years, the AAUW Hayward-Castro Valley Branch has been able to send seven (7) local 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls to Tech Trek summer camp at Sonoma State University. To date, our branch has raised funds to send four (4) girls in June 2020. We are asking for your assistance.

- **Do you own, work for, or know of a local business looking for an opportunity to support their community? AAUW has the perfect choice.**
- **Can you or someone you know donate \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500, or even a \$1,000 to help a local 7<sup>th</sup> grader attend Tech Trek?**

Tech Trek is a week-long STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) camp, run primarily by AAUW volunteers, designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in young women entering the eighth grade with hands-on activities in STEM-related fields. Check out this informative You Tube video about Tech Trek: <https://youtu.be/MpeE4SP-l4g>

Tech Trek camp costs \$1,000 per girl per week. Exceptional girls are referred by their math and science teachers from schools in Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro and San Lorenzo. Our selection committee choose from among the candidates with an emphasis on families that lack the financial wherefore all to afford the cost. Families are asked to contribute just \$50.

Your Board is drafting a solicitation letter that will be sent to the over many Tech companies in the Eden Area, but you can help get the word out too, to neighbors, friends, family and co-workers.

AAUW of California member Marie Wolbach founded Tech Trek in 1998, with the help of an AAUW Community Action Grant, after reading the 1991 AAUW research study *Short Changing Girls, Short Changing America*. The study was the most extensive national survey on gender and self-esteem ever conducted. It

outlined the detrimental notion that girls just aren't as good as boys in math and science, and that as girls advance through school, they lose their confidence and interest in math and science subjects.

Another AAUW research report in 2010 *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* (STEM) found that women are underrepresented in STEM majors and fields compared with their male peers. But *Why So Few?* also showed that those numbers can change when girls realize their potential in STEM at an early age. Who knows? Maybe one of our Tech Trek girls will be a future astronaut like Christina Koch and Jessica Meir. Wouldn't that be something!

If you, or someone you know, can support Tech Trek, even in a small way, please make your check payable to "AAUW CA SPF" and put Tech Trek, Sonoma State on the memo line. Please mail directly to AAUW Hayward-Castro Valley Branch, P. O. Box 642, Hayward, CA 94543.

*All Donations are tax deductible. AAUW-CA • Special Projects Fund • TAX ID: 68-0463071*



## Member News



Mary Krieg has moved to Villa Castro Valley. The address is 19960 Santa Maria. Mary's room number is 104. Her phone number remains the same. She would enjoy calls and visits from her AAUW friends.

Former member, Peggy Robinson visited the new Hayward Library to view the Heart of the Bay quilt she made and donated to the old library.

If you have news about a member who needs to be congratulated on a special occasion or accomplishment, who needs to be encouraged during illness or difficult time, or to be reminded we are here for him/her, please contact your corresponding secretary Barbara Jones at 538.0516 or by email at [bb\\_jones@pacbell.net](mailto:bb_jones@pacbell.net). Let's let our friends know we care.