

February 2012 General Meeting

Together We Make a Difference!

Focus on Membership

Saturday, February 18, 2011

1:00 to 3:00 pm at The Terraces of Los Gatos
(on Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos)



Connection for Longtime, New and Prospective Members

Each of us has a unique reason for joining our branch and sharing your personal story can be powerful. Welcome new and prospective members and personally represent our branch. Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW is a place to have fun, make friends and strengthen those friendships through shared interests, advocacy and action.

We Make a Difference at the State and National Level – We have a rich history of advocacy on issues of major importance to women and girls and are still in the forefront in helping get beneficial legislation passed.

We Make a Difference in Our Local Community

– We send middle school girls to Tech Trek camp at Stanford University for exciting math and science activities. We provide scholarships to women who are furthering their education, and work with Georgia Travis Center to help homeless women and children.

We Make a Difference by Sharing Common Interests – Updates will be provided about our wide-ranging 14 Interest Groups such as Book Clubs, Conversation in Spanish, Bridge, Travel, Lunch, Gourmet & Hiking groups.

(Read the Chairwomen Message on page 2.)

Coming Next Month . . .

March 2012 General Meeting

Women's National History Month – Charlie Parkhurst

Speaker: Linda Dydo, interim Los Gatos Library Director

When: Saturday, March 24, 2012;
10:00 am-12 noon

Where: The Terraces of Los Gatos

Book Club – PM

The March book to read is:

Book: *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett. Reviewer: Margaret Bard. Meets on Third Tuesday at 7:30 pm
(see the March calendar next month for details).

Travel “Armchair” Adventures

The travel slide presentation will be:

“Traveling Through the Middle East.” Meets the First Friday at 7:30 pm (see the March calendar next month for details).



Message from the February 2012 Chairwomen of the Month Committee

Today I attended the fabulous Author's Luncheon. The three authors were completely different from each other but they were all wonderful storytellers. Congratulations to Geri Williams and the AAUW Funds committee on another successful and enjoyable Author's Luncheon.

My message this month is about why I believe our Los Gatos-Saratoga branch is worth joining. I moved to Santa Clara County almost 6 years ago and, after a couple of years, I realized I was not getting involved and meeting many other people. I looked at possible organizations, among which was AAUW. After checking out the websites for both Los Gatos-Saratoga and the San Jose branches, I decided to explore the Los Gatos-Saratoga branch.

I was definitely interested in a book group and joining some philanthropic endeavor. I was lucky enough to call Pat Kahn about the book group and found her to be a very warm and welcoming person. She definitely made me feel that this might be the place for me. I joined the Tuesday night book club but, because of another previous Tuesday night commitment, didn't join the Committee on Homeless Women and Children for another year. Since that first encounter, I have gotten to know and work with many great, interesting women.

The variety of opportunities we offer and how we welcome new people into our organization helps people find their place in the branch. I, for one, want to see our interest groups (*choice of 14 wide-ranging groups*), action groups (*Homeless, Local Scholarships, Tech Trek*) and

advocacy groups (*LAF, AAUW Funds, Public Policy, Choice*) continue to grow and thrive. Members tell me that they want new people to join and find their place in our branch. With the participation of active and new members, we will be able to continue to break barriers for women and girls. Let's work together on membership to keep the Los Gatos-Saratoga branch dynamic and growing!

Help us grow our membership and provide opportunities for all of us to make a difference in our own lives, in our daughters and granddaughters lives, and in the lives of other women and girls through the Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW.

We are at a crossroads in our branch and we need the participation and assistance of all of the Los Gatos-Saratoga members. **Come to the next General Meeting – Focus on Membership**, Saturday, February 18, 2012 (*see front page for details*) and bring an interested neighbor, family member or coworker. I look forward to seeing all of our branch members (*especially our new members*).

–Charlene Bunger

Just A Reminder 

Chairwomen of the Month – Providing Leadership & Coordination

NEXT MONTH:

March's Chairwomen Committee –

Tina Hubbard
Arleen Pickett

tina@tinahubbard.com;
arleenpickett@gmail.com;

408-867-1841
408-356-3233



**Call Lavonne
Today!**



We Urgently Need You to Participate! Still seeking a Nominating Committee Chair

Let us know if you can be the Nominating Committee chair or can serve on the committee.

–Contact Lavonne Marafino (lnmarafino@att.net; 408-867-1964) for more information. Also we want to hear from you if you know a member who is a leader and can serve as an elected officer for next year.

Protect Yourself, Social Security Lies Spread

Economic Policy Institute Publishes List of “*Top Ten Lies about Social Security*”

With some GOP presidential candidates and others targeting Social Security, the Economic Policy Institute found it prudent to publish an article *debunking* some of the ten most common myths or misunderstandings about Social Security. The fact sheet addresses confusion over the size of benefits, the strength of the trust fund, and the costs of the Social Security program.

AAUW believes that it is vital to women’s economic security to provide for the long-term solvency of Social Security and to maintain its current guaranteed benefits. The current Social Security system is more than just a retirement program; across the life-span, it is one of the most successful anti-poverty programs in our nation’s history, providing benefits to many children, disabled workers, surviving spouses, and retirees. Older women especially benefit greatly from this program, since many depend on Social Security as their primary source of retirement



Check Out the Meeting Schedule for 2012 Great Decisions

The forty-two **Group One** participants of the *2012 Great Decisions Program*, will hold their first study session on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 1:00 pm in the Saratoga Senior Coordinating Council’s (SSCC) modular classrooms. Following the initial assembly for viewing DVD presentations provided by the *Foreign Policy Association (FPA)*, **Group One** will divide into two separate subgroups to facilitate greater individual participation. (For **Group One**, the session dates, topics, and subgroup leaders are listed below.)



Group Two’s twenty participants will hold their first study session in the Saratoga Retirement Center (SRC) on Thursday, February 2, 2012 (*the same day*), but beginning at 2:00 pm. They will meet weekly for the next eight weeks.

Group One, the session dates, topics, and subgroup leaders:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	
February 2, 2012	<i>Middle East Realignment</i>	<i>Section One Leader:</i> Terry Zaccone <i>Section Two Leader:</i> Ginger Good
February 16, 2012	<i>Promoting Democracy</i>	<i>Section One Leader:</i> Dan Hoffman <i>Section Two Leader:</i> Marge Bunyard
March 1, 2012	<i>Mexico</i>	<i>Section One Leader:</i> Ann Roberts <i>Section Two Leader:</i> Anne Stewart
March 15, 2012	<i>Cyber Security</i>	<i>Section One Leader:</i> Ray Shannon <i>Section Two Leader:</i> Bruce Baldrige
April, 5, 2012	<i>Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq</i>	<i>Section One Leader:</i> Al Stewart <i>Section Two Leader:</i> George Bunyard
April 19, 2012	<i>State of the Oceans</i>	<i>Section One Leader:</i> Madeleine Salzman <i>Section Two Leader:</i> Jean Barrick
May 3, 2012	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>Section One Leader:</i> Sharon Kelkenberg <i>Section Two Leader:</i> Sumi Tanabe
May 17, 2012	<i>Energy Geopolitics</i>	<i>Section One Leader:</i> Charlene Bunger <i>Section Two Leader:</i> Hana Itani

At the conclusion of each session participants will complete an opinion ballot to be mailed to the *Foreign Policy Association (FPA)* for tabulation at the end of the season. Results are then published and made available to the participants prior to the resumption of the subsequent year’s sessions.

Questions? Call or email Al Stewart, 358-3177; agstewart@earthlink.net

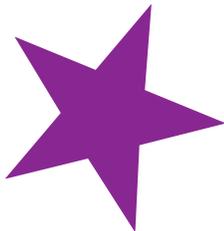
The Annual GAMES PARTY is Now in March!

The Annual Tech Trek fundraiser will be on Tuesday, March 27 (*we have moved from July to avoid conflicts with the start of the summer vacations*). We're hoping that **MORE** members and guests will find this a convenient time to join in the fun.

In the past there was a mistaken impression that the Games Party was only for **BRIDGE** players. **Not the case at all!!!** While we've always encouraged other games players to join in, this year we want to emphasize that **ALL** types of table games are welcome.

What is your passion?

- Canasta?
- Scrabble?
- Chess?
- Dominos
- Mah Jongg?
- Cribbage?
- Monopoly?
- Bridge?



Bring your spouse or significant other – **this is not just a party for women!** Get your friends together and let's have a fun afternoon of games to support Tech Trek.

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Time: 1:00-4:00 pm

Place: The Terraces of Los Gatos,
800 Blossom Hill Road,
Los Gatos

Donation: \$20 per person.
Additional donations are
ALWAYS welcome!!

Sign up: See the flyer in this
Grapevine issue

Questions: Louise Quenon,
408-867-0698



July 2011 Tech Trek Campers

1

Stanford University
July 20, 2011

Dear Saratoga/Los Gatos AAUW,

Thank you so much for sending me to Tech Trek. I really enjoyed this camp. My favorite part was going to the Exploratorium and learning about light absorbing and reflecting different colors.

I also enjoyed learning about Pixar. Your organization has given me a lifetime experience and lifelong friends. Thank you very much.

–Molly Bonini

2

Stanford University
July 20, 2011

Dear Saratoga/Los Gatos AAUW,

Before Tech Trek, I wasn't very confident about myself and what I could do. Getting into Tech Trek made me realize that I stand out from others and that I definitely want to go into a field that has math and/or science. You were the ones who allowed me to have this amazing opportunity, so thank you!

Thank you letting me see how spectacular I can be. Sincerely,

–Negin Mortazavi

3

Stanford University
July 20, 2011

Dear Saratoga/Los Gatos AAUW,

Thank you for all your help.

I am really happy to be at Tech Trek. I get to talk to many great people and find out what they do. I'm really grateful that you gave me an opportunity to do that. Thank you.

–Thao Pham

4

Stanford University
July 20, 2011

Dear Saratoga/Los Gatos AAUW,

Thank you so much for sending me to Tech Trek. I enjoyed many activities but my favorite activity was talking to the professional women who had been to Tech Trek and are working in the fields of math and science.

I was amazed at how many different jobs you can be successful in related to math and science. I really appreciate you sending me to Tech Trek, it was a truly life changing experience. Sincerely,

–Lauren Lacey

Read All Eight Tech Trek Campers 'Thank You Notes'.

5

Stanford University
July 20, 2011

Dear Saratoga/Los Gatos AAUW,

Thank you so much for the scholarship to attend Tech Trek. I have had so much fun at camp learning new things and meeting new friends. I have learned so much about nutrition in my core class, Food Chemistry. My favorite part was when we blended a Happy Meal and measured all of the nutrients in it.

We have done many other fun things outside of the core classes too. I most enjoyed going to the Exploratorium in San Francisco. It was cool to get to try all the hands-on stations that they had. I've also really enjoyed meeting other girls from different towns and cities who share the same passion as me. This has definitely been an unforgettable experience that I can't thank you enough for. Sincerely,

–Stephanie Lysaght

8

Stanford University
July 20, 2011

Dear Saratoga/Los Gatos AAUW,

Words cannot express how thankful I am for this amazing opportunity. Tech Trek has been an experience I will never forget. It has opened my eyes to so many job opportunities I never knew existed for women. I hope to further explore some of the jobs I learned about in camp when I get home.

From making new friends to making a robot, Tech Trek is full of great and unforgettable experiences. I have learned to appreciate science so much more this week. I have had so much fun visiting the Exploratorium and meeting women who work in science and math fields. Our core classes are so fun and I have learned so many things. I would have never known how much fat is in a McDonald's burger.

Thank you so much for giving me this amazing experience. I will never forget the fun I've had at Tech Trek. Sincerely,
–Darby Williams

6

Stanford University
July 20, 2011

Dear Saratoga/Los Gatos AAUW,

Thank you so much for sending me to Tech Trek. I have had so much fun here. I have met lots of wonderful people and made friendships that will last a lifetime. We have been doing many fun things, like chemistry labs and even learning how Pixar movies are made. My core class is forensics. We have set up a fake crime scene, and it's really cool to see what they do at crime scenes.

I am having a great time and I hope future campers do to. Sincerely,

–Naja De Silva

7

Stanford University
July 20, 2011

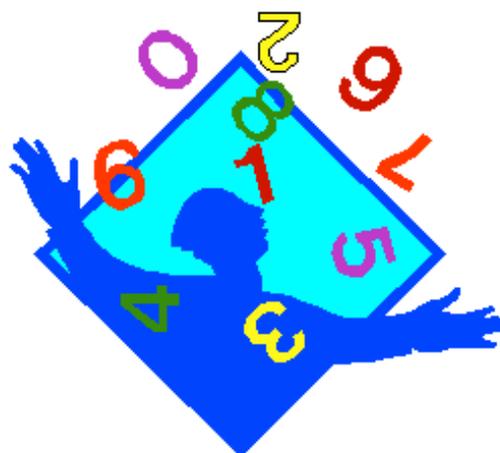
Dear Saratoga/Los Gatos AAUW,

Thank you so much for choosing me to attend the Tech Trek program. I am so glad that I am able to represent you in this camp! I am having a wonderful time learning, discovering new things, making new friends, and most of all—having an amazing time!

My core class is Marine Biology, and, since I adore the ocean and sea life so much, this class is very fun and fascinating to me. The way we learn things at the camp is in a fun and interesting way. I enjoy it more than the long, quiet lectures at school that I am used to!!

Again, thank you so much from providing me with a scholarship to attend this spectacular camp. My gratitude goes beyond words. Yours truly,

–Anne Zepecki (from Fisher Middle School)



Can You Help at the California AAUW Convention?

The *California AAUW Convention* will be held April 13-15, 2012 at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel in Santa Clara, and we need lots of volunteers. **Can you help?** If you volunteer for 5 or more hours, you pay a reduced fee to attend all the workshops and business sessions during the convention.

All the details and costs will be coming in your next California Perspective newsletter. Some of the highlights of the Friday program include an opening session on bullying and the first business session. Saturday morning features a total of 12 workshops on a variety of topics, while vendors and exhibitors will be open all day. A no-host reception is followed by dinner with Jennifer Siebel-Newsom, the wife of Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and author of *Re-envisioning Women as*

Leaders in Our Society.” On Sunday the breakfast speaker is our new state legislative advocate Shannon Smith-Crowley, and the lunch speaker is Dr. Catherine Hill presenting the latest AAUW Research Report, *“Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at Schools.”*

Some of the areas where volunteers are needed include the following:

- Registration desk
- Greeters
- Ticket takers for meals
- Workshop assistance
- Business sessions
- Volunteer room

Please let me know if you would like to help. Call me at 408-866-4234 or email me at vturner@sbcglobal.net.

Our branch is in charge of coordinating the Greeters but you can volunteer



for whatever jobs you would like to do. Or let the committee assign you as needed. The convention committee will be using *Volunteer Spot* to coordinate volunteers and you will be kept informed about your assignments.

With the convention right in our backyard, this is a great opportunity to get more involved with AAUW and meet several hundred members from throughout the state!

–Virginia Turner,
Interbranch Council Representative (IBC)

Thousands Receive Gifts! Gifts for Teens a Huge Success!

Gifts for Teens had another banner year distributing 1546 bags and special gifts. Gift bags, sweatshirts and blankets were given to local impoverished teens. These needy teens served by Sacred Heart Community Service and the homeless, group home and foster care teens served by 3 other agencies, appreciated the festive bags full of fun and useful items this holiday season. Over 425 industrious volunteers prepared gift items and assembled the bags over a two week period in December. Judging from the chatter, laughter and efficient industry of this enthusiastic volunteer army, the workers had a good time while helping the poor of our community. AAUW groups, school teens, alumnae moms, Cisco and corporate teams, local groups, many individuals (*and one baby!*), participated in the gift bag and tote assembly. 1346 bags stuffed full with tshirts, cosmetics, handmade scarves, flip flops, jewelry, socks, Target and food gift cards, hygiene items, snacks and other fun small gifts were distributed to local teenagers. Additionally, 200 sweatshirts and blankets were given out.

A story to share... One young Mom, desperately seeking a gift for her teenage son, dropped by the assembly site to ask for help on December 14. She attends college, holds



down a part time job yet didn't have enough income for holiday gifts and asked if she could work in exchange for a gift duffel bag. She gratefully chose a large, full duffel and insisted on helping in the assembly line that afternoon.

AAUW-San Jose members serving on the 22 member committee include: Gloria Leonard, Sharon Bouska, Elaine Benoit, Carol Fitting, Cheryl Markman, Phyllis Keese, Lorraine Navone, and Rosemarie Mirkin.

In this down economy, providing over 1500 gifts is quite a feat! *Gifts for Teens* thanks all our generous cash and item donors and assembly-day workers for their help, love, time spent during the busy holiday season and especially for their generous caring attitude.

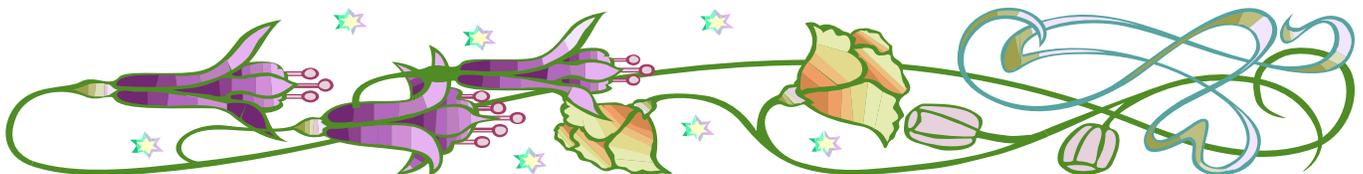
–Elaine Benoit, ebenoit@pacbell.net

February 2012 AAUW Calendar

- 1 Wednesday **Current Interests Blog**, 12:30 pm at Florentine Trattoria restaurant on Big Basin Way in Saratoga. Chair: Shirley Cancellieri, 741-5586; Co-chairs: Joan Kjemtrup, 356-6016; Barbara Hawkes, 395-4397. **New Members are Welcome.**
- 2 Thursday **Trail Clean-up** for Hikes and Walks, 9:00 am. Meet promptly at 9:00 am in the Los Gatos Park & Ride behind Starbucks and Petco. **All Members are Welcome.**
- 3 Friday **Travel Armchair Adventures**, 7:30 pm. The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos. *A Viking River Cruise to Russia.* Travel with photographer Brad Hinckley as he travels to Red Square and the Kremlin in Moscow, with a visit to the nearby Sergiev Posad Monastery, the spiritual center of Russian Orthodoxy. Then it is on with the river cruise as they pass trees, trees, and more trees and 17 locks on the way to his final destination, the city and palaces that Peter the Great planned and built—an experience in opulence and craftsmanship. **Open to All Members.**
- 6 Monday **Board Meeting**, 3:30 pm in the Community Room at the Saratoga Fire Station, corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Road. **All Members are Invited, Especially Board Members.**
- 7 Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish**, 1:30-2:3 pm at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Ct, Saratoga. RSVP: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383. Chairs: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383; Helen Lemmon, 867-0575. **Seeking Spanish Speakers at Any Level.**
- 8 Wednesday **Let's Do Lunch**, 11:30 am at The Red Lobster, 5343 Almaden Expressway, San Jose (*near Costco, behind Chase Bank*). Hostess: Doris Taber. RSVP, call Catherine Reinhardt, 867-0607. Members and guests welcome. Chair: Catherine Reinhardt, 867-0607. **Open to All Members.**
- 9 Thursday **Scenic Hikes and Walks**, 9:00 am *Demonstration Forest – Valentine Hike* 5-6 miles up and down through the forest in the Santa Cruz mountains above Los Gatos. Meet promptly at 9:00 am in the Los Gatos Park & Ride lot. Possible winery or lunch visit. Questions? Jane Bishop, 356-7796; Kay Duffy, 867-0508. **Seeking New Walkers.**
- 14 Tuesday **Committee on Homeless Women and Children**, 7:00 pm at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Court, Saratoga. Chair: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383. **New Members are Welcome.**
- 17 Friday **AM Book Review**, 9:30 am at the home of Terri Raynaud, 800 Blossom Hill Rd #321, Los Gatos, 356-0075. Chair: Margaret Bard, 377-6625. **New Members are Welcome.**
- 18 Saturday **General Meeting**, 1:00-3:00 pm The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos. Focus on recruiting new members via special interest groups. (*See front page for details.*)
- 21 Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish**, 1:30-2:30 pm at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Ct, Saratoga. RSVP: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383. Chair: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383; Helen Lemmon, 867-0575. **Seeking Spanish Speakers at Any Level.**
- 21 Tuesday **PM Book Review**, 7:30 pm *A Singular Woman* by N. V. Scott. Reviewer: Margaret Ford. The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos. RSVP to Margaret Ford, 356-5028. Chairs: Marlene Lamb, 356-8441; Pat Khan, 741-1616. **New Members are Welcome.**
- 23 Thursday **Back-by-Noon Hike**, 9:00 am. Meet promptly at 9:00 am at Argonaut Shopping Center, Saratoga, way out front of CVS; go somewhere nearby and return by noon. Questions? Kay Duffy, 867-0508; Jane Bishop, 356-7796. **Seeking New Walkers.**
- 28 Tuesday **Film Buffs**, 1:30-3:30 pm at the home of Marlene Lamb, 105 Arroyo Grande Way, Los Gatos. RSVP to Marlene at 356-8441. Chair: Mary Ellen Madden, 264-4488. **Open to All Members.**

March 2012

- 2 Friday **Travel Armchair Adventures**, 7:30 pm. The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos. *Traveling through the Middle East.* Join traveler Par Khan as she travels to Jordan for a granddaughter's wedding. Her travels continue from Amman, Jordan to Palestine and Israel.





Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch
American Association of University Women
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Saratoga, CA 95070
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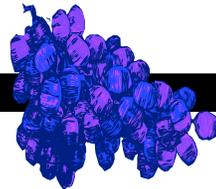
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February 2012



Grapevine Newsletter Editor, Gail Pedersen; Proof-reader, Joyce Sogg; Calendar Editor, Blenda Mariani; **The final deadline for copy is the 10th of the month.** Copy to gail_pedersen@yahoo.com

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Please make this change in your directory.

Judy Borlase (*new address*)

1660 Hyacinth Ln, San Jose, CA 95124; same email and telephone

Joy Drury (*new email*) d.dury@comcast.com

Please send any additions, corrections or changes in the Directory Information to Patty Weber, Database Manager, xaviercugat@comcast.net



Qualification of Membership

Anyone holding an associate, baccalaureate, graduate degree or the equivalent, or nursing school diploma or business school associate degree from an accredited institution is eligible for membership. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

If you have questions or want to receive a membership application, contact Charlene Bunger, Membership VP, lgs_aauw@ymail.com or call her at 440-0063.

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

**1:00-4:00 pm
at The Terraces
800 Blossom Hill Rd
Los Gatos**

Games Party!

AAUW Los Gatos-Saratoga branch presents a FUNDRAISER to benefit TECH TREK!

A week long intensive summer camp learning experience in math and science for 8th grade girls at Sanford University.

What Game Do You and Your Guests Play?

- Canasta?
- Scrabble?
- Chess?
- Dominos?
- Mah Jongg?
- Cribbage?
- Monopoly?
- Bridge?



Bring your spouse or significant other – this is not just a party for women!

Get your friends, neighbors, co-workers, daughters, sons, or spouse together and let's have a fun afternoon of games to support Tech Trek.

Donation: \$20 per person. Make check out to ISPF – AAUW/SCCO

Additional donations to Tech Trek are ALWAYS welcome!!

Sign up: Reserve your tables of 4 (Please RSVP by March 21, 2012)

Refreshments: Cookies and Beverages will be provided.

Games Sets: Please bring your own cards and score pads, game boards, etc. to play the game of your choice.

Games Party for Tech Trek . . .

Tuesday, March 27, 1:00-4:00 pm at The Terraces, 800 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos

Please clip and send this form with your check payable to ISPF – AAUW/SCCO to:
Louise Quenon, 20297 Thelma Ave, Saratoga, CA 95070

Names of Four People at your table:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Phone # _____

Table(s) reservations ____ (\$80 per table)

Optional donation _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Questions? Louise Quenon, 867-0698

Donations to Tech Trek are Welcome!

