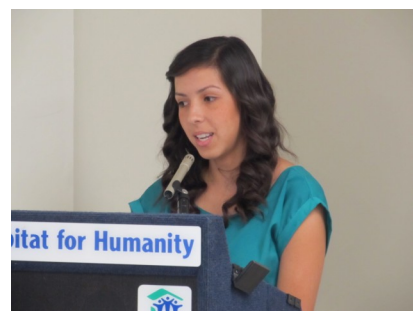






Andrea Galvez-McDonough

## OUR TECH TREK GIRLS



Kaylen Gomez



Audrey Dunn



Carolyn Perez



Rachel Newhall

Batteries ran out

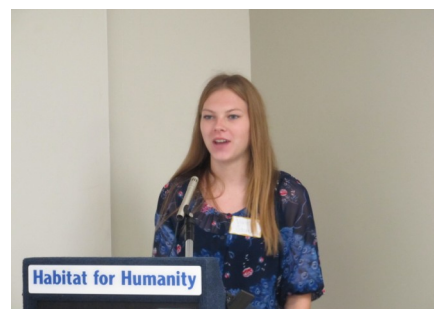
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Alyssa Saldana



Fernanda Delgadillo



Vivian Sauer

## TECH TREK BRUNCH 2012

By Taffy Geith

True to what has become our custom, the Riverside Branch of AAUW gathered at Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Ave. on September 15, at 9:30 AM, for their annual celebratory brunch to honor the return of the seven student scholars we sponsored at the Tech Trek summer camp at UC San Diego. The Tech Trek program is one that is dear to the hearts of every member of the Riverside Branch, consequently, the mood was one of joy and anticipation.

Whereas in previous years, this special brunch was held at the home of AAUW member, Marie Dyer, at her beautiful home and where she provided the delicious brunch, the venue had to be changed this year. Riverside members will be forever grateful for the generosity of Marie and for the gracious hospitality she displayed as the hostess. She set an example that we can only try to emulate. This year Lisa Newhall with the help of the Board of our Riverside Branch, furnished the sumptuous brunch that pleased everyone. Importantly, the money collected at the Brunch provides funds for the Riverside Branch to sponsor future camps next summer.

Barbara Purvis, Co-President, began by welcoming the seven Tech Trekkers, their parents, and other members of their families, special guest, Vivienne Sauer, former Tech Trekker, now preparing to enter UCLA, and the new members to our Riverside Branch: Cynthia Sprague, Pam West, Christina Morgando, and Lori Webb. Barbara continued by thanking Riverside Branch Membership Chairperson, Carlease Chandler. At the end of the event, she signed up one new member, Claudia Moon-Perez.

After reading our mission statement, that AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, Barbara called Lisa Newhall, Tech Trek Coordinator, to proceed. Lisa, introduced the seven honorees and, when called upon, they introduced the family members they had brought: Andrea Gomez-McDonough, Alyssa Saldana, Audrey Dunn, Fernanda Delgadillo, Rachel Newhall, (Lisa's daughter), Carolyn Perez, and Kaylen Gomez. Lisa gave a brief history of Tech Trek. It is specifically a California program begun in 1998, but has now grown and California AAUW sends over 8,000 girls to different universities and colleges in the state. The Riverside Branch began in 2004 by sending two girls, and we have progressed --we sent seven this year. The Tech Trek Program has strict guidelines for selection that are to be followed: seventh grade science teachers make recommendation to girls interested in science and math, essays and applications are submitted and reviewed, some are chosen to be interviewed, and after consideration by the committee, the seven are selected. (There were 54 applicants this year), It is expensive to send one student to camp -- \$850.00. Donations this year came from Supervisors Bob Buster, and John Tavaglione, the California Retired Teachers' Assn., the Dibbler Garden Club and Riverside Branch members. Lisa welcomed donations at the present time and a hand-knit afghan was put up for raffle then and there to add to the donations for next year.

Each student came forward, introduced themselves and shared their experiences at Camp this past summer. Many mentioned the Torrey Pines Field Trip, the Biology Boat Trip to capture sea creatures, the tasks of putting lights together, building little support bridges out of toothpicks, and, of course, socializing with fellow campers and also talking with adult career women. When questioned, they spoke of renewed self confidence, that nothing is impossible, to never give up on yourself, and that women have the power to change society. One honoree, judged early in her career to be dyslexic, was especially aware how this experience at camp had reinforced her belief in her own ability. Some expressed future goals for themselves: anthropologist, chemist to help cure cancer, ear-nose-throat physician, engineer, biologist and pediatrician. The presentations by these young girls were delightful.

The raffle ticket was picked (after some delays) and the winner proclaimed. Further, the raffle ticket funds with the funds from the brunch totaled enough (with a little extra) to send one girl to camp next summer. We now have enough funds to send 4 girls to camp. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution, make a check out to "Riverside

Barbara thanked the young scholars, their families for coming in support of their children, and the members who take an interest in this program. Why does this Tech Trek Program matter so much to the Riverside Branch of AAUW? Because (to quote Jo Turner's blog) the growth in STEM programs (science, technology, engineering and math) has declined since 2008.... Women tend to be under-represented in the STEM Fields. Ergo, the Riverside Branch of AAUW has heard the call!

This was an uplifting program for all of the Riverside Branch members. These young scholars are so positive, so beautiful and so young -- they inspire us to continue and to remember our mission.

*Life not only begins at forty, it also begins to show.*

# Riverside Pipeline

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AAUW advances equity  
for women and girls  
through advocacy,  
education, philanthropy,  
and research.



By  
Carlease Chandler



On September 6<sup>th</sup> the 1:00 book club listened to Carlos Cortez discuss his book, *Rose Hill* after lunch. The book deals with the marriage of his mother who was an Eastern European Jew and his father who came from an aristocratic Catholic Mexican family. It was a memoir in which he discussed the problems he had as a child trying to survive in a family in which his parents had opposing opinions about religion.

Much time was spent with Mr. Cortez answering our many questions about this life and the effect it had on the choices he made and on his own children. He has a wonderful sense of humor. He let us know that he had to leave out "R" rated events that might have caused embarrassment for his family.

**Members and guests are invited any time to all meetings!**