

Tech Trek Girls Wowed the Crowd And Keynote Speaker Inspired Us All

by Kathy Garfinkle

This year's Fall Brunch was both inspirational and fun.

It was held on Saturday, September 20th in Cole Hall at the First United Methodist Church. Members and guests gathered to enjoy a morning that featured an inspiring keynote speaker and a presentation by the Tech Trek recipients that amazed us all.

After having an opportunity to circulate and visit the various interest tables, attendees were seated for a program of branch business, award presentations and super speakers.

Leadership Team member Randy Fewel began the program with a warm welcome. Then Janice Longo presented the President's Pin to our past presidents Marylouise Bailey and Linda Pearson. Randy Fewel, Kathy Bray, and Steve Cho were installed as leaders for the year 2014 –15. The budget was approved as presented by Steve Cho. Mary Lynn Pelican introduced the new members and presented each with a rose. Marylouise recognized Miriam Keller for her outstanding service as chair of the Math/ Science Discovery Day. This November will be the 31st Math/Science program that Miriam has chaired.

Linda Pearson presented the Named Gift Honoree certificate to the One Book, One Community Read committee led by Genevieve Angelides, Margery Leonard, and Kristine Sandoe. The committee has presented dynamic programs and engaging discussions for the past six years. Wanda Homen was also recognized as a Named Gift Honoree for her International Update that appears in the Twig each month. Our Ohlone scholarship recipient, Allison Martin McBee, was introduced.

Jo Szeto introduced the Tech Trek recipients: Meghna Okhade, Olivia Hogle, Tiffany Ip and Rhea Advani. These young ladies distinguished themselves with their poised and polished presentations that were both informative and entertaining. Northern California Director, Helene Carr asked members to support the Pay Gap and promote the film documentary "The Invisible War".

Our keynote speaker, Michele Molitor, was passionate and enthusiastic. She outlined three keys to reclaiming our personal voice, power and purpose. First, she asked us to think about what is most important in our lives. Michele told the audience that true leadership starts with believing in yourself and that core values are the truth of who you are. Secondly, embrace your fears to find your voice. Pain is the source of power, said Michele. Her quote from Eleanor Roosevelt is most appropriate. "You must do the thing you think you cannot do." The third key is to understand your talents and tap into your genius. Michele challenged us to dare to find and exploit the brilliance that is in all of us

Thanks go to the many chefs and kitchen volunteers who provided a delicious meal. Kathy Garfinkle was the lucky winner of the quilt donated by the Piecemakers Quilt Guild. Proceeds go to the Ohlone College Local Scholarships.

Bottom line, the Fall Brunch was a great success and those attending left energized and inspired.