

WELCOMING OUR NEW BRANCH PRESIDENT ELIZABETH MANDEL

The importance of education was stressed during her growing up years in a rural area of the Canadian rockies. Of the seven children in her family, six have earned university degrees, despite living in a community where only ten percent of the student body continued to higher education.

Following graduation from the University of British Columbia with a double major in math and computer science, Elizabeth pursued a 20-year career with IBM, including a two year international assignment at the IBM Silicon Valley lab in San Jose. Upon her return to Vancouver, she realized, "The software development work and opportunities in San Jose were much more aligned with my career interests, so I returned to California."

Marriage to Peter and the birth of two daughters plus work meant a hectic life style that caused Elizabeth to retire when the girls started school. But she does manage to stay occupied. Consider her volunteer work in local schools: Home & School Clubs; technology implementation to include installation of a server as well as upgrading and networking the computers at Nordstrom Elementary; web management at Live Oak High School and coaching middle school MATHCOUNTS competition teams.



Elizabeth leads the Britton MATHCOUNTS Team

AAUW profited from Elizabeth's organizational skills during her past year as membership vice president. She originally joined AAUW for the evening book group - still her "absolutely favorite activity." She strongly supports the AAUW mission; she finds that peers and adults can - and should - influence students' academic expectations.

This woman for all seasons also enjoys athletic activities, as well as travel, cooking, and community theater. Rollerblade, anyone? Elizabeth would like a partner.

Peggy Thompson