

# ✧ AVANTI ✧

A monthly publication of AAUW, San Francisco, est. in 1886

[www.aauwssf.org](http://www.aauwssf.org)

October 2009

## President's Message

Hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for the 2009-2010 AAUW SF year. We have lots of events planned for the year and want your ideas and participation. We encourage you to attend our monthly board meetings. Yes, we take care of our organizational business, but we also discuss what's important for our members to get out of their membership.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Health and happiness,  
Kelly

## Board Meeting

**Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 Pot Luck, 7**

**Meeting**, at Marilyn Leal's home, 4325 19<sup>th</sup> St. All members are invited to attend. RSVP Marilyn at: 626-4110

## Afternoon with Books

**Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm**, at Mary Suter's home, 1770 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. The book is: **Angels in the Wilderness**, by Amy Racina. Several members plan to purchase the book and will be willing to share their copies. There are no copies in the SF Public Library. RSVP Mary at 665-1185.

## Membership Meeting at the Zoo

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am**, meet inside the Zoo at the bronze lion. Pat Camarena has secured a docent led tour and reserved a secluded picnic where we can eat a homemade lunch or purchase one at the restaurants. Please call Pat Camarena for additional

information and to RSVP. Her number is 285-7589 or email her at [tappat157@aol.com](mailto:tappat157@aol.com).

## Travel Club

No trip planned for October. Please attend the all member event at the SF Zoo.

## International Book Group

**Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm**, at Nancy Shapiro's home, 1683 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. The book is **City of Thieves** by David Benioff. The story is based in Russia. RSVP Nancy at 731-2654.

## Mystery/Adventure

**Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 pm**, at Mary Suter's home, 1770 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. The book is **Murder on Nob Hill** by, Shirley Tallman. SF Public Library has many copies available. RSVP Mary at 665-1185.

## International Cuisine Needs Organizer

The oldest daytime interest group needs someone to organize dinning (usually lunches). Many members are interested, but can not run it themselves.

## Northern EF Fellow's Luncheon

**Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>** at Crow Canyon in Danville for information, contact Rozanne Child [aaufundsdir@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aaufundsdir@aauw-ca.org)

## AAUW Serves the Community

Co-president Andrea opened her Purple Garden to the community in a fundraiser for the Potrero Library. Elaine and Steve Butler acted as hostess and host. They represented the Friends of the Library and AAUW. More than 160 paid guests viewed the garden.

*“When one door closes, another opens;  
but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door  
that we do not see the one which has opened.”*

Alexander Graham Bell

*“A successful person is one who can lay a firm foundation  
with the bricks that others throw at him or her.”*

David Brinkley

**October Birthdays**

Carol Robinson	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>
Cathy Corcoran	Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Joyce Bowe	Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>
Deirdre Araujo	Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>
Jill Wynns	Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>
Harriet Sollod	Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>
Michelle Mammini	Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>
Jane Wright-Hayes	Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>
Gwen Essex	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>
Krisann Chasarik	Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>
Marie Barteo	Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>
Esther Wong	Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Jo-An Hett	Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>
Patricia Spencer	Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>

**Birthday Not Announced?**

If your birthday is not there and you'd like to have it included (or corrected), contact the Membership Co-VPs.

**Any 50-Year Members?**

If you've been an AAUW member for 50 years, contact one of the Membership VP to have AAUW national and state give you an honorary life membership.

**New Members**

- Deirdre Araujo
- Melissa Buron
- Susan Christopher
- Frances Finney
- Priscilla Kelly
- Susan Kwock
- Kari Radoff
- Delores (Dee) Schoen
- Lyudmila Shapovalow
- Sandra Tye
- Jane Wright-Hayes

Contact the Membership Chair to get in touch with the new members and give them a warm welcome.

**Membership Updates**

If you change your address, kindly notify the Membership Chair.

**Quick LAF clicks**

**Sexual Assault on Campus:** [www.aauw.org/laf/library/assault.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/laf/library/assault.cfm)  
**Chief Justice John Roberts' effect on Title IX?** [www.aauw.org/newsroom/news/05LADailyNews\\_RobertsOPED.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/newsroom/news/05LADailyNews_RobertsOPED.cfm)

**AAUW Web Pages**

**News Page & Media Alerts:** (use links on page to subscribe) [www.aauw.org/About/newsroom/news/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/About/newsroom/news/index.cfm)  
**Actions to take:** [www.aauw.org/issue\\_advocacy/actionpages/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/actionpages/index.cfm)  
**Mission in Action:** [www.aauw.org/publications/mission/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/publications/mission/index.cfm)  
**Two Minute Activities:** [capwiz.com/aauw/home](http://capwiz.com/aauw/home).  
**US Congressional Voting Record** [aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm](http://aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm).

**Tech Trek**

**Tech Trek Donation Form**

I'm interested in sponsoring girls to go to Tech Trek 2010! I pledge the following amount towards sending girls to camp.

- \$25    \$50    \$100    \$200
- \$800 (1 girl)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to AAUW-CA SPF with Tech Trek SF in the memo line.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your donation addressed to:

Elaine Butler  
 124 Amber Dr  
 San Francisco, CA 94131-1626

**2009-AAUW-**

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**Secretary**

**Open**

**Treasurer**

**Cathy Corcoran**

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415) 341-0206

**Get the Avanti Faster**

If you'd like to receive the Avanti via email or the web, please tell one of the Membership VPs, so that a printed copy will not be sent to you. If you prefer, we can continue to print and mail you the Avanti.

**Avanti Articles**

Please remember to submit any Avanti articles by the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**2010****SF Board****Avanti Editor****Stephen Butler**

415) 826-3172

[Steve.Butler.sf@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:Steve.Butler.sf@SBCGlobal.net)**Public Policy****Sheila Bost**[wawonast@earthlink.net](mailto:wawonast@earthlink.net)

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**Tech Trek****Elaine Butler****Calif. AAUW Membership  
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650) 735-5184

**Why are Some Non-  
Titles Underlined?**

Read the Avanti at our website and click on the underlined phrase, it opens a browser on a more complete article or an email to the member's address.

**Online AAUW  
Branch**

There is an online AAUW California Branch at [www.AAUWCaOnline.org](http://www.AAUWCaOnline.org).

Their dues are \$10 if you're already a member.

**Future Travel Club**

Filoli Home & Gardens;  
Pardee House

**2009-2010 Budget**

Avanti	\$750
Board Retreat	\$160
Branch Website	\$200
Ed. Foundation	\$100
Legal Advocacy Fund	\$20
Membership	\$835
Operating Expenses	\$4,150
President	\$800
Programs	\$1,600
Public Policy	\$150
Tech Trek	\$3,025
Treasurer	<u>\$100</u>
Total Expenses	\$11,890

**Tech Trek**

Most of this summer's girls and their families came to our Welcome Back meeting. They showed their projects, told us about their experiences and shared their photos. **Agnes Cronin & Robert Rosin** were so pleased with Adair's time at camp, they generously donated for next year.

Preparations are underway for the 2010 camps. Pledges or donations are gratefully accepted. Science Teachers will be notified about the wonderful opportunity available for their 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. We hope you will join the Tech Trek Committee. There are many jobs. We need help fundraising, people to email teachers who nominated girls last year, help preparing packets, interviewing the girls and many other jobs.

**Playing Now****Paula Campbell**

**My Name is Asher Lev**, now playing at the Marin Theatre Company is an engrossing, marvelous piece of story telling that tears at your heart even as it engages your mind. Asher Lev, born to a family of Hassidic Jews, is an artist, different from the others, someone who could easily be an outcast. He tells the audience his story, from his childhood, to his young adulthood, to his time of international acclaim as an artist, which

is where we met him. It is not an easy story.

Although the play by Aaron Posner closely follows the book by the author Chaim Potok on which it's based, one doesn't need to be Jewish, or a Potok fan to appreciate this play. There is a one page glossary of Hassidic terms in the program, but they terms are all self evident in the context in which they're used in the play.

In short, Asher Lev's father has been chosen to do special work to restore religious schools and through these, religion itself, in Europe. He hopes that Asher will someday carry on his work. But Asher can only do one thing – the child draws – he draws everything – the father lectures him – tells him to listen – Asher listens – but as he does he sees only the planes of his father's face – the lines – the movement – more than what he hears is what his artist eyes see. The story is the conflict between father and son – the father who cannot fathom that his son has not chosen to be an artist – he simply IS an artist. And the son who eventually, even when the father is forced to let him go – to let him be an artist – can't control what he draws and finally in his art does in fact betray his family.

Peter Stadlen, playing Asher Lev, is amazing. His portrayal of Asher never falters, whether we see the adult or the child, the Asher we see is always consistent, always pure, always exactly spot on.

Danielle Levin and Patrick McNulty playing all the other characters, Asher's parents, art dealers, religious leaders, other artists, are both compelling, making all the characters come to life as real, fully fleshed out people. In particular, they present stunning performances as Asher's parents.

Hal Brooks direction is faultless. The action flows without hesitation, the

audience is held on the edge of their seats, and as the play ended, rose as one to give a standing ovation.

**My Name is Asher Lev**, through Oct. 11. Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, CA. Tickets 388-5208. Tues – Sat 8pm, and Sat, Sun 2pm.

## **One Woman, One Barrel, and a Million Cubic Feet of Water**

Pat Camarena

Annie Edson Taylor began her career as an underpaid school teacher more than one hundred years ago. She spent most of her working years between jobs and locales. Various financial disasters wiped out her savings. Work as a dancing instructor paid her little especially as she got older. Perhaps her desire for a comfortable retirement cushion prompted her to undertake the most dangerous risk of her life. It was difficult to get anyone to help her to set out on what seemed like a surely suicidal venture. To be accepted for this risky undertaking Annie had even claimed to be twenty years less than her real age of 60 something. Finally the big day arrived. Wearing a special harness, she was tightly sealed inside of an airtight custom-made oak barrel padded with a mattress. A small boat towed her out into the fast flowing river current. The barrel was cut loose. After bouncing over the rapids, the barrel dropped 173 feet to the whirling waters below. Seventeen minutes later Annie, still in the barrel, washed up close enough to the Canadian shore to be hooked and dragged ashore. She was relatively unharmed though bruised and battered. Yes, in 1901, Annie Edson Taylor became the first person to survive a trip over Niagara Falls in a barrel. Though not exceptionally high, Niagara Falls is the most powerful waterfall in North America. Unfortunately, in spite of the terrible risk that she took, Annie's fame and fortune was short-lived. Briefly she earned money speaking about her experience to tourists at the falls. She also posed for photographs at her souvenir booth until her barrel was stolen. Twenty years later she died destitute, never finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. She was quoted as saying that she would sooner walk up to the mouth of a cannon about to be fired than to make another trip over the falls. In the following years others have attempted to repeat Annie's feat... many with much less success. There was even a young Italian woman who walked across the gorge four times in one month on a tight rope, once backwards, another time blindfolded. Now these stunts are for-

bidden. Amazing to what lengths some people will go to see their names in the papers.

More information on Annie Edson Taylor can be found at the following websites: [www.niagarafallslive.com](http://www.niagarafallslive.com), [www.adventure.howstuffworks.com](http://www.adventure.howstuffworks.com), and [www.niagaraparks.com](http://www.niagaraparks.com)

## **Notes from National Convention Jackie Speir**

The 10 Commandments – AAUW style

1. Thou shall not assume the system is fair
2. Thou shall not settle for less than you are entitled
3. Thou shall educate yourself and your daughters
4. Thou shall help other women
5. Thou shall honor and protect family
6. Thou shall not feel you have to do it all
7. Thou shall stand by your principles even when you have to stand alone
8. Thou shall never stop fighting for yourself and others
9. Thou shall not be afraid to fail
10. Thou shall change the world

## **AAUW-CA: What's In a Name?**

Effective July 1, 2009, **AAUW Funds** is the new name for what we have known and loved for years as the Educational Foundation (EF). Contributions to AAUW Funds are a 501(c)(3) and are therefore tax-deductible. AAUW's philanthropic purpose, goals, processes, and activities will remain exactly the same including all the fellowships and grant funds, the Legal Advocacy Fund, and the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. The only thing that will change is the terminology we use to refer to the designations for our giving. The Educational Fund is now known as **AAUW Funds**.

Making donations is now simpler and allows you to designate your support to the programs you care about most. For those of us in California a new LAF Transmittal Form and "EF" Contribution Form have been developed to handle AAUW Funds donations. They are available on our website at [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org), in the Forms & Documents section. The new forms have the fund numbers listed in the instructions and on the forms. Please note that the person from your branch submitting the forms will not send them to the California State Office as in the past but to the EF or LAF committee treasurer listed on the form. When the treasurers receive your checks and

donation forms, they will prepare an Excel spreadsheet and send your checks to National in Washington D.C. for proper branch credit. Please feel free to contact Rozanne Child, AAUW Funds Director at [aaufundsdir@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aaufundsdir@aauw-ca.org) if you have any questions or concerns. Just remember EF is now referred to as **AAUW Funds**.

*“I’m really glad that I came to Tech Trek and that I got to meet so many inspirational, determined, successful women who prove to us that anything is possible to achieve”*

Esalyna – Tech Trek 2009”

**October 2009**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <b>6:30 pm Board Meeting</b>	15	16 1:30pm <b>Afternoon with Books</b>	17
18 <b>10 am Zoo Meeting</b>	19 <b>7 pm International Book Group</b>	20	21	22 <b>7:30 pm Mystery/Adventure</b>	23	24
25 <b>Northern EF Fellow’s Luncheon</b>	26	27	28	29	30	31 <b>Happy Halloween</b>

**Board Meeting**

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**Avanti Editor**

AAUW  
 San Francisco Branch  
 P.O. Box 31405  
 San Francisco, CA 94131-0405  
 Address Correction Requested

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), founded in 1881, is the nation’s leading organization advocating equity for women and girls. Its national membership of 100,000 seeks to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. People of every race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, and level of physical ability are invited to join.

AAUW California was launched in San Francisco in 1886 and began lobbying immediately. It remains the state’s most active and diverse organization for women with 14,000 members in more than 150 branches, plus 6,000 members-at-large.



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

**Marie Curie & AAUW**

The year was 1919. Europe had been ravaged by World War I and radium was far too expensive for a scientist of modest means to afford for experiments. Even one as famous as Madame Marie Curie. As a result, her ground-breaking research had reached a virtual standstill. Then the AAUW came to the rescue. Members from Maine to California helped raise an astonishing \$156,413, enabling Madame Curie to purchase one gram of radium and continue her experiments that helped her create the field of nuclear chemistry and forever change the course of science. Madame Curie received the Nobel Prize for her work, but was not admitted to the French *Academie des Sciences* until she won an incredible second Nobel Prize...all because she was a woman. More than 75 years later, there are still only three women members.

**Educational Foundation**

In 1873, a prominent Boston physician, Dr. E.H. Clarke, wrote a book arguing that too much study would give women brain fever and render their children sickly, if they were to have them at all.

The Association of Collegiate Alumnae (AAUW’s chief predecessor) fought this contention in 1885 and won, by gathering data from its members to show that they had suffered no ill health from their college and postgraduate education. In 1888, the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae (founded here in San Francisco) made educational history by establishing the first graduate fellowship for women (given to Vassar graduate Ida Street).

California is still the largest contributor, enabling the Educational Foundation to award nearly \$3 million in grants to women at the dissertation or doctoral level, and to those pursuing career-related or community-based projects.

**Legal Advocacy Fund**

Founded in 1981, the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to achieve equity for women in higher education by recognizing innovative efforts to improve the climate for women on campus; by offering assistance to women faculty, staff, and students who have grievances against colleges and universities; and by supporting sex discrimination lawsuits.

The LAF Board only approves support of cases which are currently involved in litigation, and that have the potential to set legal precedent.

The Legal Advocacy Fund’s annual Progress in Equity Award recognizes innovative and replicable college and university programs.