

✧ AVANTI ✧

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

www.aauwsf.org

December 2009

Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 9th, 6:30 Pot Luck, 7 Meeting, at Marilyn Leal's home, 4325 19th St. All members are invited to attend. RSVP Marilyn at: 626-4110

Holiday Luncheon

Sunday, December 13th, Noon, at Delancy Street Restaurant, 600 Embarcadero. Valet parking available. Call Joanne Mandel if you have not received your invitation 665-7329 or Marilyn Leal 626-4110.

Mystery/Adventure

Thursday, December 17th, 6:30 pm, mystery potluck at Andrea Laudate's home, 243 Missouri St. The book is **Something Missing**, by Matthew Dicks. The reviewer is Pat Camarena. RSVP Andrea at 864-6789.

Afternoon with Books

Friday, December 18th, 1:30 pm, at Michelle Mammini's home, 2520 Greenwich St. The book is **The Help**, by Kathryn Stockett. RSVP Michelle at 346-9114.

International Book Group

No meeting in December, see you next year! January's book is **Strength in What Remains**, by Tracy Kidder.

Travel Club

Sunday, January 3rd, 3 pm, at Elaine Butler's home, 124 Amber Dr. Let's get together and plan some day trips for the year. Please come with ideas! If you are unable to attend, email or phone your ideas to Elaine at 826-3172 or Elaine.butler.sf@sbcglobal.net.

Memory Dynamics at General Meeting

Saturday, January 9th, 2pm, at Barbara Spencer's home, 736 Third Ave. SF. Known to his clients as The Memory Man, David E. Coffill is a firm believer that "People will never forget how you made them feel" and "The greatest discovery we'll ever make is the potential of our own minds." Dave is regarded as one of America's most entertaining and motivating speakers on the topic of developing an instant recall memory. For the past 26 years, Dave has spoken annually to nearly 200 businesses, corporations and associations and has clients spanning virtually every industry. RSVP Barbara at 221-6690.

International Cuisine Has an Organizer

Susan Kwock has decided to run the International Cuisine dining-out group. New and interesting places to go should start in January. Please call Susan with any suggestions at 828-2082 CSKwock@yahoo.com.

"An idea is a point of departure and no more.

*As soon as you elaborate it,
it becomes transformed by thought."*

Pablo Picasso

*"To give without any reward,
or any notice,
has a special quality of its own."*

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

December Birthdays

Renee Golanty-Koel, Ph.d Dec 12th
 Mary Nance Dec 18th
 Angeline Durso Dec 23rd
 Jane L. Williams Dec 29th

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
 Frances Finney
 Priscilla Kelly
 Susan Kwock
 Kari Radoff
 Lyudmila Shapovalow
 Jane Wright-Hayes
 Sandra Tye

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

Avanti Articles

Please remember to submit any Avanti articles by the 20th.

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
Chief Justice John Roberts' effect on Title IX? 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
Actions to take: www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/actionpages/index.cfm
Mission in Action: www.aauw.org/publications/mission/index.cfm
Two Minute Activities: capwiz.com/aauw/home.
US Congressional Voting Record 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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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.

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**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.

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

December ends with sending nomination forms and criteria to science teachers at SFUSD. If anyone would like to participate by sending the 2010 information to teachers, who nominated students last year, please let me know. I can be reached at 826-3172, or elaine.butler.sf@sbcglobal.net.

We are also collecting pledges for 2010 (see form). The pledges are not due until March 1, 2010. Happy holidays to you and yours from the Tech Trek Committee!

Playing Now**Paula Campbell**

"This is the way the world will end, not with a bang, but a whimper" said T.S. Eliot, but that's not what happens in Peter Nachtrieb's wonderful comedy **Boom**, now playing at the Marin Theatre Company. Nachtrieb's world ends with loud booms and fierce shaking – as a giant comet collides with earth.

Warning – the last paragraph contains a spoiler – don't read it you plan to see the play.

You may well ask how a play about the end of the world can be called a comedy. Aside from telling you that I, and the rest of the audience, almost

never stopped laughing, let me give you a brief synopsis to explain.

Boom is an amazingly funny three character, 95 minute, no intermission, play, brilliantly directed by Ryan Rilette. Jules, played by Nicholas Pelzar, is a marine biologist. Based on his observed behavior of fish in a tropical reef, he knows that the world is about to end, and has built a subterranean bunker/laboratory, where he's holed up for the duration. He's built a mini reef in a fish tank, a reef in microcosm, which he monitors carefully, as the fishes' behavior will let him know exactly when the end is coming. He's been unable to sell his Armageddon theory to experts in his field – so only he knows the world is ending. He's placed a Personals ad on Craig's List for a sex partner, as he believes it's up to him to repopulate earth after the coming disaster.

Jo, played by Blythe Foster, answers the ad. She's an angry, hostile young woman, who resists Jules' attempts at conversation and just wants to get down to the business at hand – having sex. But Jules has neglected to mention one important thing in his ad – he's gay. It's going to take a lot of time and conversation before he warms up to Jo.

The action between the two takes place in a center stage walled room – Jules' bunker/ lab. Stage left is a separate playing area, where Barbara, played expertly by Joan Mankin, gives a running commentary on what we are seeing take place with Jules and Jo, punctuating the action with her wild drumming, controlling stage sound and lighting by moving huge levers. What is this?? Barbara is a museum docent – what we are watching turns out to be a museum exhibit, set in some future time in which we are witnessing the story of the end of the world, and it's regeneration.

Barbara becomes more and more agitated as the exhibit continues. She's being fired as docent and the museum will be closed. This infuriates her as she believes it's vital for humanity to know what happened and how humanity was saved.

Jules finally gets Jo calm enough to listen to him and tells her about the impending comet strike. She assumes he's crazy, tries to leave the lab, but every time she gets to the door she's struck by an unknown force and falls down. Then BOOM – the comet strikes – loud noise, shaking, the set almost falls apart. FYI, the set, ingeniously designed by Erik Flatmo, had to be specially constructed of unusually heavy/sturdy materials to withstand some of the violent stage effects of the comet impact.

Time passes. Jo and Jules withstood the crash, but are in bad shape. She refuses to have a child with him, and has fought him off and broken his leg. Their food supply room was crushed in the crash, and they are almost starving. Only the fish in the tank are doing well. The generator keeps the tank in good shape, and there's plenty of fish food. Jo wants to leave the lab – to go to the earth's surface. Jules thinks the surface won't be safe, free of radioactive ash and toxic fallout, for many more years. By now Jo has explained that she has a genetic mutation that prevents her from physical harm. When she's about to do anything dangerous, she falls down. That's why she fell every time she tried to leave the bunker. She convinces Jules that they should try to leave – if she can get through the door without falling, it means the earth above is habitable and safe for them. They open the door, Jo doesn't fall down – they leave. Big sound effect – audience doesn't know what it augers.

The final scene takes us back to our eager docent. Barbara tells us she's going to open her own museum – this story is too important not to be told. After all, this is the story of how mankind was saved, how we were all created. Jules and Jo were of course destroyed by the water, which flooded into the bunker when they opened the door at the top. Floods had inundated the earth. Only the fish survived. And it's now 65 million years later – during which time we've evolved from our fish ancestors in the aquarium into the people we are today. Blackout – end of story

Boom, through Dec. 7th. Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, CA. Tix 388-5208. Tues– Sat 8pm, and Sat, Sun 2pm.

Kindred Spirits

Pat Camarena

A 20th century woman could easily have written a quote from a famous American woman born in the early 19th century. “I have an almost complete disregard of precedent and a faith in the possibility of something better. I defy the tyranny of precedent. I go for anything new that might improve the past.” December was a momentous month in both their lives. These two women, Clara and Rosa, never met, having been born almost a century apart, however they very likely would have endorsed going to extraordinary lengths to improve peoples' lives. Both of their lives attest to this philosophy. The woman who penned the above words was well known as the founder of the American Red Cross but accomplished so much more in her long life. A determined multitasker, born on Christmas day in 1821, Clara Barton had early on been the first woman offered a substantial federal clerkship in the U. S. Patent Office. While working in Washington, she became aware of the lack of medical supplies getting to the Civil War soldiers. She advertised for donations in newspapers, and began an independent organization for the distribution of medical supplies to soldiers, traveling with the army behind enemy lines. Following the war, she compiled lists of soldiers missing in action, investigated their whereabouts, and notified their families, including lists of thousands of prisoners in the south. She was probably the first official missing persons investigator. She also became well known in the woman's suffrage movement working closely with Susan B. Anthony to further the rights of women. After traveling in Europe with the Red Cross on her “vacation”, she returned to the U.S. to found an organization adapting the Red Cross concept to peacetime as well as wartime uses.

Meanwhile Rosa Parks was born in Alabama close to the end of Clara's life. Rosa lived for many years in a part of our country where unequal treatment of people of different races was a daily occurrence. One December evening while riding the bus home from work, Rosa refused to move farther back in the segregated bus to make way for white passengers. She went to extraordinary lengths to stand up for her principals. She believed as Clara did that each person must live their life as a model for others. She was subsequently tried and found guilty of disorderly conduct charges. A long successful bus boycott followed.

Rosa is respectfully remembered as an initiator of the modern Civil Rights movement. Both Clara and Rosa would have been kindred spirits both believing in change for the better and unafraid of defying precedent... kindred spirits in two different centuries.

The work goes on. www.rosaParks.org
www.thinkExist.com www.civilWarHome.com.

Silver Jubilee Scholarships

Barbara Spencer (bcspencer@comcast.net)
 Silver Jubilee Scholarship Chair

The San Francisco AAUW branch will offer scholarships of \$2,000 each to help upper division and graduate school women complete their final year of study in an accredited college or university for the school year 2010-2011. Candidates must live or be attending a university or college within a 100-mile distance of San Francisco and be on track to complete their course of study by June 2011. There is no restriction on the use of the funds. Completed applications are due by March 1st, 2010.

If you are interested, or have friends or relatives who may benefit from the scholarship, please check the Silver Jubilee Fund information on the AAUW San Francisco website at www.aauwsf.org.

AAUW Bylaw Changes

You should have received a postcard from the California AAUW indicating that there has been a change in the California Bylaws. To read the bylaws and find further information, please go to www.aauw-ca.org. Our San Francisco chapter will vote on our bylaw changes at the Holiday Party, December 13th, 2009. We hope to see you there.

Museum Touts Women's Role in Global Business

Carolyn Said (excerpted from SF Chronicle)

The images are stunning and vivid worthy of National Geographic: Chinese factory workers make high-tech products; Nepalese women gather for a village meeting; Arab businesswomen clad head-to-toe in abayat, chat on cell phones.

Representing facets of women's participation in the financial world, the images, along with audio and written commentaries, are part of a new online exhibit from the International Museum of Women, called "Economica, Women and the Global Economy" www.imow.org/economica.

"Woman play a critical role in the economy, whether through employed work, care giving or as micro-entrepreneurs," said Clare Winterton, executive director of the museum, which is based in San Francisco, but does all its exhibiting in cyberspace. Economica was two years in planning.

"As the financial crisis hit, it gave extra saliency and impetus. Being presented online allows the exhibit to evolve and integrate contributions from viewers," she said.

Some of "Economica" is also on display at the Wells Fargo History Museum, 420 Montgomery St., San Francisco, as part of a physical exhibit called "Women Making Financial History," which looks at women and money from frontier times to the present.

Detective Fiction



CCSF English 48B

This spring—**Thursdays 7:00-10:00 PM**
 Creative Arts Building 314
 (Phelan/Ocean Campus)
 (Bart: Balboa)

Starts January 19th—Come join us as we read crime and mystery novels that take place in San Francisco!

We'll also view and use films and television (classic and current) in our studies and discussion.

Taught by mystery author Seth Harwood (**Jack Wakes Up** - 2009). Other notable SF authors will stop by to talk about their novels as we read them.

Course can be taken for credit, graded, un-graded, or audited to just join the discussion. Credits transferable to CSU and UC.

For more info: email sharwood@ccsf.edu; call 206-350-4998; or show up for first class on January 19th to register.

 Seth has been a speaker at the Mystery Book club and Pat Camarena & Andrea have taken some of his other classes and recommend them. City College is canceling classes that have too few students, please consider signing up to ensure continuation of such courses.

Put our Resources into Action

Want more information on an important issue affecting women and girls? Looking for background information on current legislation or talking points on an equity issue? Need additional advocacy resources and ideas for action? **Look no further than these [issue pages and recently-updated position papers](#).**

Advocacy isn't just about lending your name to an issue, or even speaking up on Capitol Hill. Advocacy is also about AAUW members and all citizens concerned with equity being knowledgeable and aware of the current status of important issues.

That's why AAUW provides resource pages that offer the freshest information, advocacy resources, and most effective avenues for action on issues related to our current public policy priorities. **We're excited to announce that our position papers have all been recently updated and are [available online](#) for your use.** You can access specific position papers and issues pages by clicking on any of the links below.

Economic Security

AAUW advocates for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

- [Work/Life Balance](#)
- [Pay Equity](#)
- [Social Security](#)
- [Health Care](#)

Education

AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.

- [Career and Technical Education](#)
- [Charter Schools](#)
- [Disabilities](#)
- [Education and Training in Welfare/TANF](#)
- [Higher Education](#)
- [No Child Left Behind Act](#)
- [School Vouchers](#)
- [Single-Sex Education](#)
- [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics \(STEM\) Education](#)

Title IX

AAUW supports vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.

- [Title IX](#)
- [Equity in School Athletics](#)
- [Sexual Harassment](#)

- [Single-Sex Education](#)

Civil Rights

AAUW advocates equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

- [Affirmative Action](#)
- [Federal Judicial Nominations](#)
- [Hate Crimes Prevention](#)
- [Reproductive Rights](#)

Take Action!

Put AAUW's position papers into action! Here are a few ways you can do so:

- Invite your [book club](#) to read and discuss a position paper along with, or in place of, your scheduled reading
- Pick one position paper to discuss at each AAUW branch meeting
- Hold a [issue forum or summit](#) and invite the community to learn more about one of AAUW's issues
- Hand out position papers at related branch events, such as at an [Equal Pay Day](#) event
- Set up a [meeting with a state or local public official](#) and use our position papers to discuss similar legislation in your community
- Have position papers available at [voter education events](#) to inform voters of issues at stake in the election
- Use our related [Programs in a Box](#) for more ideas
- Forward this email to friends to share these resources and help spread the word

Critical issues are at stake, and AAUW's position papers and other resources make it easy for advocates to stay informed and [take action](#) to break through barriers for women and girls.

The grassroots liaisons in AAUW's new Leadership Corps program will be reaching out to AAUW branch leaders to provide mentoring and assistance. Whether you are a member of an AAUW branch (an officer or not) or a member-at-large interested in becoming involved with other AAUW members, please fill out the [online form here](#) to indicate areas of branch programming or administration for which you would like assistance.

[Washington Update](#) is AAUW's free, members-only weekly e-bulletin offering an insider's view on the legislative process, the latest policy news, resources for advocates, programming ideas, and updates from

the Public Policy and Government Relations Department. [Subscribe today!](#) Strengthen AAUW's voice with policy-makers! [Donate now.](#)

Read the 2009-2011 [AAUW Public Policy Program](#). Connect with AAUW online via our [website](#) and [blog](#), and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Become part of the AAUW national community and break through barriers for women and girls. [Join now.](#)

“I learned how to figure and identify lipoproteins and fingerprints. I’m usually shy and this experience helped me come out of my shell.”

Twanika – Tech Trek 2009

“Just last night we talked with a financial advisor from Stanford and I learned about Cal-grants, scholarships and financial aid readily available to students. This is an amazing program, never stop it!”

Penelope – Tech Trek 2009

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 6:30 pm Board Meeting	10	11	12 1 st day of Chanukah
13 Noon Holiday Luncheon	14	15	16	17 6:30 pm Mystery/ Adventure	18 1:30pm Afternoon with Books	19 Last day of Chanukah
20	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26
27	29	29	30	31	Happy New Year	

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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 inDecative 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 inDecative and replicable college and university programs.