

✧ AVANTI ✧

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

www.aauwsf.org

April 2010

Presidents' Messages

Springtime is here and summer is around the corner. This is convention time for AAUW. Friday, April 30th -Sunday May 2nd. Convention details can be found in the March 2010 Perspective or on-line at www.aauw-ca.org. Saturday April 17th is the 38th annual Amador County AAUW home tour – quite the fun event, see www.aauwamador.org for more information. Sunday, April 18th a new and exciting event for the branch—check article for details. One of our IBC members (San Carlos) helps out at the Hope House for Women. They have a wish list that includes: feminine hygiene products; soap; shampoo; razors; and of course \$\$\$ Please contact Alice Orme, 592-3717 for more information. Thanks again to Susan Kwock for that wonderful lunch at Clay Oven. My stomach and my heart say thanks.

Andrea Laudate, co-President

Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 14th, 6:00 pm, Pot Luck, 7 Meeting, at Marilyn Leal's home, 4325 19th St. All members are invited to attend. RSVP Marilyn at: 626-4110

Afternoon with Books

Friday, April 16th, 1:30 pm, at Elaine Butler's home, 124 Amber Dr. We are reading, **When the Elephants Dance**, by Tess Uriza Holthe. RSVP Elaine 826-3172 or ElaineButler124@Comcast.com.

Equal Pay Program

Sunday, April 18th, Noon, at Barbara Spencer's home, 736 3rd Ave. We are commemorating **Equal Pay Day**, which is April 20th. That is how much longer women must work into 2010 to match men's pay for 2009. Attorney Phyllis Andelin will discuss this and other employment rights' issues. Ms. Andelin has been a litigator (trial lawyer) for 36 years, specializing in employment law. She has many insights to share about our legal rights and remedies.

International Book Group

Monday, April 19th, 7 pm, at Nancy Shapiro's home, 1683 42nd Ave. We are reading **The Girl Who Played with Fire**, by Stieg Larsson. RSVP Nancy at 731-2654.

Mystery/Adventure

Thursday, April 22nd, 7:30 pm, at Marilyn Leal's home, 4325 19th St. We are reading **Locked Rooms**, by Laurie King. Reviewer is Susan Peliks. RSVP Marilyn at 626-4110.

International Cuisine Luncheon

Friday, March 26th, a group of adventurous diners met at the Clay Oven Indian Restaurant on West Portal Avenue, SF, to feast on a delicious robust offering of northern Indian (Punjabi) cuisine. The array of foods offered in this buffet ranged from vegetarian to hearty meat dishes cooked with spices characteristic of the Punjab region of India.

Not only did the food provide a positive dining experience, the participants did too. We (15 strong) were sharing stories, making new friends and renewing old friendships—generating lots of positive energy and laughter. Everyone was having such a good time we did not want it to end.

We invite you to join us on Friday, May 14th for our next International Cuisine Luncheon for more fun, conversation, and great food! You won't want to miss the lap pat dok, traditional tea salad, and other authentic Burmese cuisine.

Details will be forthcoming to you via the Avanti or email regarding location, cost, and menu.

Travel Club

We are not touring in April. We have reserved 10 spots for a tour of Harley's Goat Farm for **Sunday, May 2nd** at 1 pm. The cost is \$20 a person and I have my credit card betting that 10 of you will sign up. Go to <http://www.harleyfarms.com/> for more information and photos of the goats. Sorry it is the last day of the CA AAUW Convention. Talk to Elaine at 826-3172 or ElaineButler124@comcast.net.

April Birthdays

Patricia Arango Cosmos Apr 1st
 Jean Foss Apr 5th
 Joanne Mandel Apr 6th
 Sopenia Maxwell Apr 9th
 Barbara Scheer Apr 11th
 Melly Metcalf Apr 12th
 Holly Millar Apr 21st
 Catherine Hsuan Apr 23rd

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

Susan Christopher
 Phyllis Fitzgerald
 Deborah Lopez
 Joan Walton

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/aauf/home
US Congressional Voting Record aaufaction.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 not US mail, please tell one of the Membership VPs, so that a printed copy will not be sent to you. If you prefer, we will continue to print and mail the Avanti to you.

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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

Harley Goat Farm
City College Murals &
Conservatory
Filoli Home & Gardens
– Apple Festival;
Marine Mammal Ctr
Tour de Fleurs

Tech Trek

The interviews were held the weekend of March 20 and 21 at **Support for Families of Children with Disabilities**. This is the third time that this non-profit has given us the use of their meeting rooms for free – yeah! The following folks gave up a portion of the weekend to interview the girls and their families. Thank you: Cathy Corcoran, Sheila Bost, Andrea Laudate, Michelle Mammini, Barbara Scheer, Susan Kwock, Adrienne Kristine, Joanne Mandel, Pat Spencer, Kelly Joseph, Marilyn Leal, Pat Camarena, Tatiana Spisz and Elaine and Stephen Butler (both days).

The choices are made and photos will appear in the May AVANTI. We made our goal to send 14 girls to 2010 Tech Trek Camp. What we find to be so wonderful is that in these difficult times, everyone increased their donation from last year's amount and many new donors came forward. The Tech Trek Committee thanks the following:

SF Branch of AAUW

Angie Durso

Marilyn Leal

International Cuisine Fundraiser

Ask Accounting Service By Kwock

Susan Kwock

Mary Suter

Stephanie Pincson

Thank You All!

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

Prepare to laugh, hold your breath, and dive right into **Den of Thieves**, at the SF Playhouse.

Den of Thieves is the third play by award winning (Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics' Circle, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Lawrence Olivier, and more) author Stephen Adly Guirgis, that the SF Playhouse has produced. Some of you may remember Guirgis'

Jesus Hopped the A Train, and Our Lady of 121st Street.

While less serious in tone than the previous two plays, and with a clearly happier ending, **Den of Thieves** is nonetheless gritty, dark, and down and dirty. Brilliantly directed by Susi Damilano, one of the co-founders of the SF Playhouse, the play tells the story of two people, Maggie, a shoplifter and Paul, her sponsor, trying to redeem their lives through 12 step programs. They are tempted by another two, Flauco, Maggie's drug dealer ex-boyfriend, and Boochie, his current girlfriend, a topless dancer, to join them in one big job that will make them rich enough to never need to turn to crime again. That the four barely have a three digit IQ in toto, accounts for their decision to attempt the job, which involves cracking a safe and making off with \$750,000. Act One ends with relationships between the four fully confused as they go off to their big heist, and the audience laughing out loud at the hapless wannabe big time thieves.

Act Two opens with the four tied to chairs, with hoods over their heads. No, it's not that the CIA has sent them to Abu Ghraib – they're captives of a major Mafia kingpin, who turns out to be the owner of the safe they cracked. Held now by the crime boss' son and his right hand man, the four face certain death. But when he unhoods them the son sees they are really small time mopes, and takes pity on them. He tells them only one will die – the others will just each lose a finger. They are each to prepare a statement on why their life should be spared and he will decide who dies. The play becomes suddenly serious as the four begin to actually evaluate their lives. The four monologues as each of them speaks, are touching and poignant. It becomes clear that flawed as they are, each is a

decent human being, worthwhile in her/his own way.

Finally the mafia chief enters, is shocked to find the four still alive, and orders their death. To tell you what happens then would be a major spoiler. Suffice to say that 12 step programs are more universal than one might expect, and even crime bosses have foibles of their own.

The set, designed by Bill English, is amazing. There is a set change that seems impossible – working in a limited space, English performs what seems almost like sleight of hand – transforming one place into another without the audience seeing it, though it happens right before our eyes.

The cast, Ashkon Davaron, Chad Deverman, Casey Jackson, Joe Madero, Corinne Proctor, Peter Ruocco and Katie Tkel each shine in their respective roles.

SF Playhouse decided to make this season all comedies. **Den of Thieves** is certainly a comedy, but an unusual one with very dark overtones, and much to ponder. Don't miss it!

Den of Thieves, through April 17th, 2010. **The SF Playhouse**, 533 Sutter St. Tue 7 pm, Wed – Sat 8pm, and Sat 2pm. Box Office 861-8972. Box Office 677-9596

California's Literary Mother

Pat Camarena

Born this Women's History month but 166 years ago, Josephina Smith's life got off to a rocky start. However, she overcame many difficulties managing to leave her mark on local Bay Area literary culture even today.

As a small child Josephina came to California with her mother, traveling in a wagon train guided by James Beckworth the famous mountain man and adventurer. Her mother was fleeing a polygamous marriage to the brother of Mormon prophet Joseph Smith. After a brief failed marriage and the death of her child, Josephina relocated to the Bay Area to continue her career in journalism. She took a position as the first librarian at the Oakland Free Library.

Her poetry writing led her into a literary circle including such writers as Jack London, George Sterling, and Bret Harte. She became a mentor to emerging writers and held frequent readings and discussions at her San Francisco home on Telegraph Hill. Bad luck struck again when her books and papers were all destroyed as her home went up in flames in the 1906 fire. Ever resilient, Josephina became librarian at the

Mechanics Library and the Bohemian Club, the latter organization making her their first woman member. A literary circle began to meet regularly at her new house. In 1915, she was named the first poet laureate of California. When she died in 1928, the state legislature adjourned in her memory. Subsequently they named a Sierra mountain peak near Beckworth Pass in her honor.

Today, a brisk uphill hike to Pioneer Park (Vallejo and Taylor) on Telegraph Hill will bring you to a great San Francisco viewpoint. Here in the heart of the City is a plaque honoring Josephina and her influence on California literature. Annually UC undergrads compete for a poetry prize in her name.

Today, this influential woman is better known by the name of Ina Coolbrith, the name she took to escape detection after fleeing Utah as a child. The Ina Coolbrith Circle still meets most months for poetry readings and guest speakers. Her literary mentorship lives on.

For more information on Ina Coolbrith, try these websites: www.yelp.com, www.baseportal.com and www.coolpoetry.org.

Two studies probe the legacies of Title IX

Separate studies from two economists offer persuasive evidence that team sports can result in lifelong improvements to education, work, and health prospects of women, reports The New York Times. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 required schools and colleges receiving federal money to furnish the same opportunities for girls as they did for boys. Just six years after its enactment, the percentage of girls playing team sports leapt six fold, from about four percent to 25 percent. In one study, Betsey Stevenson at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania focused on state-by-state trends in girls' sports, "untangling the effects of sports participation from other confounding factors" like school size, climate, social, and personal differences among athletes. She came close to finding a cause-and-effect relationship between high school sports participation and achievement later in life. Robert Kaestner at the University of Illinois at Chicago looked at rates of obesity and physical activity in women who had been in high school in the 1970s as Title IX was taking effect compared with similar women from earlier years. He found the increase in girls' athletic participation caused by Title IX was associated with a

seven percent lower risk of obesity 20 to 25 years later, when women were in their late 30s and early 40s. Both reports show that schools have not reached gender parity in terms of sports participation, despite gains. They also have ramifications for impoverished public school systems, where comprehensive athletics programs are far less prevalent than in privately funded schools.

Read more: well.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/02/15/as-girls-become-women-sports-pay-dividends

2010 Silver Jubilee Scholarship Awards

The Silver Jubilee Committee, comprised of Barbara Spencer, Pat Camarena, Pat Spencer, and Marilyn Smith, decided to award three scholarships for 2010. We received a number of impressive applications this year. The three recipients are highly qualified and deserving.

Bronwyn Burman is a Development Studies major and Public Policy minor at University of California, Berkeley. She expects to get her bachelor's degree in December 2010. Bronwyn has spent time in Kenya, Central and South America. She has worked with a student-led development project designing and constructing safe water and sanitation services for indigenous Shuar communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Bronwyn plans to pursue a career path in public policy.

Linda Beth Ginsberg is pursuing a Master of Arts in Education at the Shirley Hufstedler School of Education at Alliant International University. She is training to be a school psychologist and will finish her program in June 2011. Linda has been very active in the Petaluma AAUW Branch for a number of years, including service as branch president, vice-president of LAF and of programs.

Elena Portacolone is a candidate for a PhD in Medical Sociology in the Department of Social and Behavioral Studies at University of California, San Francisco. She will finish her program in June 2011. Elena has been studying the needs of older adults (75 and over living alone in San Francisco.

California State Convention

April 30th through May 2nd at San Ramon Marriott 925-867-9200. Don't miss out on attending our 89th convention starring Ann O'Leary – Author of the Shriver Report; California State Legislators Joan Buchanan, Fiona Ma, and Nancy Skinner; Claire

Schuster, LAF Plaintiff; Jill Birdwhistell and Kate Farrar from AAUW National and Evelyn Dilsaver, Charles Schwab Foundation past president who will inaugurate our Financial Literacy program.

Come celebrate our success at Friday Evening's "Soaring Over AAUW-CA" spotlighting branch and IBC accomplishments, listen to the Speech Trek contestants, Hear our own Charlotte Newhart discuss the public policy issues dear to AAUW-CA and share in our collective giving at the Saturday AAUW Funds gala!

There will be interesting workshops, vendors galore and opportunities to gather and share!

Don't forget the Women's Leadership Training Institute Friday April 30th, 2010. Go to www.aauw-ca.org/shop to register and sign up for meals.

Wardrobe for Opportunity

This year, in recognition of the current economy, AAUW CA will offer assistance to an organization that provides training and clothing assistance to job seekers. It is important for job seekers to not only have an impressive resume, but they must have something to wear for the job interview.

AAUW CA members have the opportunity to make a difference for these women and to leave something positive in the community where we have our convention. We are asking you to bring your used professional clothing in good condition to be donated to needy individuals going for job interviews.

Wardrobe for Opportunity is the recipient of the donated clothing (www.wardrobe.org) because of their impressive work in provided training and clothing to low income job seekers. This organization is supported by the outreach efforts of the San Ramon Branch of AAUW.

Additional information maybe obtained from Joy Perkins, President of the San Ramon Branch, at joyperkins@comcast.net or 925-838-2647.

The Power of One Vote

Come to Convention and experience the energy of AAUW CA elections. This year will be a very special event that you don't want to miss. Eight directors' terms will expire and eleven candidates have stepped up to run for those seats. And even more could be nominated from the floor at the first business session!

For the first time since the 16 member Board of Directors (including the officers) was established, you, the members, will elect the officers...President, Vice President, Secretary, and CFO. The 2 candidates for president are running as Co- Presidents and the remaining officer positions each have one single candidate.

Once the officers' election is determined, the remaining director positions will be filled by the candidates for director. There are 6 candidates running for the 3 remaining director positions at this time. Be sure to meet the candidates at the Friday night Kickoff event and get ready for some vigorous campaigning.

Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

The report was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, the AAUW Letitia Corum Memorial Fund, the AAUW Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle, and the AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.

Drawing upon a large and diverse body of research, AAUW's report provides compelling evidence of environmental and social barriers – including unconscious gender bias, stereotypes, and the climate within college and university science and engineering departments – that continue to limit women's participation and progress. The report also includes up-to-date statistics on girls' and women's achievement and participation in these areas and offers new ideas for what each of us can do to more fully open scientific and engineering fields to girls and women.

A presentation on the report will be held in Washington, D.C. this Thursday, and we invite you to watch the presentation live online. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion among invited experts on how to move this important research to practice.

Visit auw.org/WhySoFew for more information on the report and to download your copy.



Discover the
Possibilities! “Explore
Your Future”
Workshops for People

Age 50+ to Begin April 16 in the East Bay

Coming of Age: Bay Area will sponsor a series of four free workshops in Berkeley beginning April 16, 2010. The workshops are designed for people 50+ to consider “what’s next” as they move into to a new phase of life.

Whether you're retired or just thinking about it, whether you want to go back to school, start a second career, give back to the community or become a civic leader, the "Explore Your Future" program includes a range of proven techniques and activities for self-discovery.

At the end of the workshops, you'll have tools, strategies and a realistic plan of action to help you reach your goals. One-on-one advising is available to participants after the sessions are completed.

This four-session, hands-on learning experience is scheduled for **Friday, April 16, 23, 30 and May 7**. Sessions will be held at the **Berkeley YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Avenue, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. This is the last time this workshop series will be offered FREE in the Bay Area. To register, visit: comingofage.org/bavarea/explore-your-future/explore-your-future-enrollment-form**

Upcoming **Coming of Age** workshops include our popular Learning Labs—intensive trainings for the staff of nonprofit organizations to promote opportunities for volunteering and community involvement. For more information on the Learning Labs, visit the website at: comingofage.org/bavarea/organizations/training-and-consultation or call (888) 308-1767.

Coming of Age: Bay Area, launched just this year, works with individuals and not-for-profit organizations to harness the talents, energy and expertise of people 50+ as a force for public good.

Coming of Age: Bay Area is sponsored by Northern California Presbyterian Homes and Services (NCPHS), with additional funding provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service/RSVP grant, the Hands On Network and other community grants, and in partnership with KQED. **Coming of Age**, which is taking the place of RSVP in San Francisco and Alameda Counties, is part of a national initiative to enrich our communities and help individuals 50+ make rewarding transitions to the next phase of life.

“Toughness doesn't have to come in a pinstripe suit.”

Dianne Feinstein

“Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.”

John Quincy Adams

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 6:30 pm Board Meeting	15	16 1:30pm Afternoon with Books	17
18 Noon Equal Pay Day Program	19 7 pm International Book Group	20	21	22 7:30 pm Mystery/ Adventure	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 CA State Convention	CA State Convention

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Avanti Editor

AAUW
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 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 indicative and replicable college and university programs.