



President's Message

I just attended a webinar presented by the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor. The focus was on the plight of women in the restaurant industry nationwide. A representative of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC) briefed us on the facts. The restaurant industry is one of the largest and fastest growing sectors of the United States economy. Women comprise about half of that workforce and 69% of the tipped restaurant workers. The federal minimum wage for tipped restaurant workers is \$2.13 per hour. Unless the state minimum wage is higher, these tipped workers are often below the poverty level. Restaurant workers generally do not receive health insurance or sick leave. Studies have also shown that women earn less in tips than men.

California has a higher minimum wage, and San Francisco does even better by requiring a minimum wage of \$9.92 for all workers, be they full time or part time. San Francisco also requires employers to provide paid sick leave. Larger employers are required to contribute to health insurance for their employees. San Francisco residents who have no health insurance may join Healthy San Francisco, which provides health care within San Francisco on a sliding scale payment basis.

In December, ROC will be releasing a restaurant guide listing High Road restaurants (those providing decent wages and sick leave). The Department of Labor has developed an app called Eat, Shop, Sleep that lists conforming establishments. Finally, there is a San Francisco guide called Dining with Justice that may be found at www.youngworkersunited.org. It lists restaurants that follow the labor laws and treat their employees with dignity and respect.

On a different subject, I hope everyone will attend the Holiday Brunch on Saturday, December 10. It promises to be a splendid affair. Elaine has said that she will be there, and we all want to support her.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Branch Holiday Party

The San Francisco Branch Holiday Party will be held at Primo Patio Café, 214 Townsend Street, on Saturday, December 10th (note date change), at 10:30am. Noel Kelton, Owner-(great Holiday Name) has enjoyed 18 years in the restaurant business. When we arrive for the party, Noel will begin serving beverages and bring appetizers for us to enjoy. Looking forward to it!

International Book Group

The International Book Group will not meet in December. January's meeting will be held at Janice Gonsalves' house on January 16th at 7:00pm. The selected book is: THE THOUSAND AUTUMNS OF JACOB DE ZOET by David Mitchell.

Mystery/Adventure

Holiday Mystery Potluck will be held on December 15th at 6:30 PM. Book & Author: SENTENCED TO DEATH, by Lorna Barrett
Hostess/Reviewer: Andrea Laudate, 243 Missouri St. Bring any dish you like and keep it a secret. We do this every year and always have a wonderful meal - join us. RSVP: Andrea at 864-6789

Afternoon with Books

Date & Time: December 16th, 1:30 PM. Book & Author: THE ASSASSIN'S ACCOMPLICE, by Kate Clifford Larson
Hostess: Marilyn Leal, 4325 19th Street. The book was a major motion picture earlier this year - check it out if you can find it. RSVP: Marilyn at 626-4110.

Arts and Culture Group

We are forming an arts and culture group by compiling a list of people who are interested in being contacted by email about attending occasional events. This will be an informal group that will have no set meetings. If you are interested in being contacted about attending concerts, lectures, plays, museums and the like, please sign up by emailing Melly Metcalf at mellymetcalf@sbcglobal.net

Get the *Avanti* Faster

If you'd like to receive the *Avanti* via email notice rather than US mail, please tell the Membership VP, and then a printed copy will not be sent to you. If you prefer, we will continue to print and mail the *Avanti* to you.

Avanti Articles

Please remember to submit *Avanti* articles to Cathy Corcoran by the 25th of each month via email to: corcoranfc@gmail.com

Board Meeting

No Board meeting will be held in December.

Spark Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, Madrone, 500 Divisadero Street, San Francisco

Spark <http://www.sparksf.org> brings together a network of 5000 young professionals in philanthropy, activism and advocacy. Spark Board Member Megan Cayler has extended an invitation to the annual holiday party on December 7 at Madrone. They are doing a drive for health supplies for our local grantee partners (including the Center for Young Women's Development <<http://www.cywd.org/rising.html>>), so the holiday party is complimentary to anyone who brings a donation of health supplies (details below). Hope to see you there! RSVP <http://sparkholiday2011.eventbrite.com>

Join Spark and DrinkMe Magazine for a winter wonderland extravaganza. Sip hot toddies while swaying to live music all in celebration of another year of igniting global change. This event is FREE for Spark members. Tickets for nonmembers are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door OR bring unopened first aid kits, feminine sanitary supplies or a box of condoms and get in for FREE. Spark will donate these supplies to our local grantee partners.

Helen and Emily Pat Camarena

Two longtime friends and correspondents, Helen and Emily both made their mark on American literary history in the 19th century. They shared many early landmarks on the road of life, grew up in the same town of Amherst in Massachusetts, were born the same year of 1830, had good educations for girls of those days, and strong family ties. Both interned with the same literary critic. Both wrote numerous books and poems. Unlike her fast friend Emily, who sought seclusion and never married and only rarely left her home turf, Helen eventually married, had two children who died young, was widowed, moved west seeking healthier climates, remarried in Colorado, and moved to southern California and took up the cause of Native Americans whom she saw as a marginalized people taken advantage of by the federal government. Consequently Helen was commissioned by the Interior Department to report on the condition of the California native people. Emily kept on writing, poems mostly but generally unpublished. Helen, on the other hand, achieved more notoriety during her lifetime. Her novel, *Ramona*, went through numerous reprintings and, although somewhat romanticized according to some, raised public awareness of the unfair treatment of America's native people, especially the Mission Indians of California. Only seven or so of Emily's 1700+ poems were published during her lifetime and those were without her consent as she had become more reclusive as time went on. Helen, a very popular author at the time, published many more of Emily's works. If Helen had not preceded Emily in death by a year (1885 in San Francisco), she might very likely have been Emily's literary executor and the world would have seen her poems sooner. Helen Hunt Jackson achieved literary success sooner but perhaps did not earn as long lasting fame as her best friend and kindred spirit.....Emily Dickenson, who is more well known today.

www.nndb.com

www.biographyonline.net

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

Online AAUW Branch

There is an online AAUW California Branch at www.AAUWCaOnline.org. Their dues are \$10 if you're already a member.

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 **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.

AAUWCA Tech Trek

We want to share the success of our 2011 Tech Trek camps with all branch members. There is a link to the 2011 Tech Trek Annual Report on AAUW California home page: www.aauw-ca.org under Forms and Documents/Tech Trek.

Carol Holzgrafe, Tech Trek State Project Coordinator

Tech Trek Report

November was a difficult month but we are on schedule in preparation for the 2012 Camps. We pledged for 15 girls again which is a big undertaking. We did it once and will try again. We have some unexpected donations from Stephen Butler's charity direction.

THANK YOU DONORS TO STEVE'S CHARITY

Joyce & Bill Bowe

Jane G. Hansen

Marion Colton

Aster Lee

Irene & John Spang

Barbara Spencer

Linda Mitteness

Carol Holzgrafe

Jane Williams

Sandra Tye
Constance Burnikel
Michelle Mammini

Deborah Farkas, Director of Middle School Science Teachers for SFUSD will be emailing nomination forms and directions to the middle school science teachers. If you know teachers be sure to have them tell any middle school science/math teacher about Tech Trek. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Elaine Butler & Michelle Mammini Co-Coordinator
Tech Trek SF Branch

Thank You From the Stephen Butler Family

The day was sunny, Peggy's home beautiful and comfortable. The smells of food filled the air. We entered and found all of you. Kind thoughts for Steve were expressed and much support and love offered to us. Thank you for your phone calls, emails, home delivered food, toys for Neve and Loki, flowers, cards, donations to the family and Steve's charities. We appreciate every bit of your support to us.

Elaine, Joel, Stephenie, Ryan, Loki and Neve.



Playing Now

Paula Campbell

Two questions must be answered.

Question One:

What is **Fela**? **Fela** is a dynamic, super entertaining, nonstop energy filled must see musical now playing at the Curran Theatre. **Fela** received three Tony Awards: Best Choreography, Best Costumes, Best Sound, and seven other Tony nominations. It was also nominated for an Olivier, for best musical, in England.

Fela's star, Sahr Ngaujah, was nominated for a Tony, and for an Olivier, for best actor in his role as Fela.

Fela's director and choreographer, Bill T. Jones, is a 2007 and 2010 Tony Award winner and the recipient of a 2007 Obie Award and 2006 Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation CALLAWAY Award for his choreography for **Spring Awakening**, the recipient of the 2007 USA Eileen Harris Norton Fellowship, the 2006 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Choreography for **The Seven**, the 2005 Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement, the prestigious 2005 Wexner Prize, and the Aaron Davis Hall Harlem Renaissance Award. He is also a MacArthur "Genius" Award recipient in 1994, named one of America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures by the Dance Heritage Coalition in 2000, and was awarded The 2003 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize for which recipients are considered trailblazers who have redefined their art and reshaped the cultural landscape.

Fela is a must see. The music, the dancing, the costumes, the incredible special effects, and most of all the sheer energy of the performers makes it one of the best things ever to come to San Francisco

Question Two:

Who was Fela? Fela Kuti was a Nigerian musician and political activist. The term AfroBeat was coined to describe his music, and he toured the world making a name for himself and for his musical style. Respected and famous elsewhere in the world, at home in Nigeria his politics led to frequent arrests by the repressive government. Influenced by the Black

Power Movement while on tour in the US, Fela became an even more radical activist on his return to Nigeria. He built his own community, the **Kalakuta Republic**, which was a **commune**, a **recording studio**, and a home for many musicians, singers, dancers, his family and his wives, whose numbers at various times ranged from one to twenty seven. He eventually declared the **Kalakuta Republic** independent from the Nigerian state. Eventually Kalakuta was stormed by over 1,000 Government forces and destroyed. Many of the residents were tortured and killed, including Fela's mother who was thrown from a second story window and died of her injuries. Fela subsequently formed his own political party, attempted to run for President of Nigeria (his name was removed from the ballot), and continued touring the world. He was falsely arrested for murder in Nigeria, (released after international protests) but suffered continuing persecution there. He died at age 58, reportedly of AIDS, though since AIDS was considered a debasing illness in Nigeria at the time, this may have been part of the government's attack on him.

Fela, through Dec. 11, 2011, Tues to Sat. 8pm, Wed, Sat, Sun, 2pm. Curran Theatre, 445 Geary St. Box Office (888)-746-1799 www.shnsf.com

New Members

Welcome new member Maureen Keenan!

Any 50-year Members?

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

Membership Updates

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

State Directory

AAUW CA Directory is posted in searchable PDF format. Both documents can be found in the Forms & Documents section, under Branch Administration, **HERE**. Hard copies of the directory are available for purchase. Send your request, with a \$10 check to AAUW CA Office, PO Box 160067, Sacramento, CA 95816-0067.

AAUW 130th Anniversary

AAUW's 130th Anniversary Grad Student Rate

Special 130th Anniversary introductory rates are available for graduate students, who can join AAUW for just \$18.81! Promote membership to graduate students near you and help us usher in the next generation of AAUW leaders! Visit the AAUW website for more information or to join. Individuals and branches that focus on recruitment can win prizes, be recognized, and help strengthen the organization for years to come.

Shape AAUW's Future by Encouraging E-SAF Participation!

Signing up for a free student membership at AAUW college/university partner member schools is now

easier than ever! Encourage any undergraduate student at a partner member school to receive our great AAUW benefits by visiting the e-student affiliate join application page on the website and filling out a simple form!

Special \$130 Anniversary Rate for College/University Partners

AAUW is celebrating our 130th Anniversary with a special rate of \$130 for new C/U partner members. Visit the online directory to see if your local school or alma mater is a member. If not, use these tips to encourage schools in your community to join and give their students priority for AAUW's many opportunities.

December Birthdays

Rene	Golanty-Koel	December 8
Annie	Bailey	December 15
Angie	Durso	December 23
Jane	Williams	December 29

Birthday Not Announced?

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

Now Showing at the Balboa Movie Theater

"The most exciting event of the season starts Friday when we open SUTRO'S: THE PALACE AT LAND'S END. Last year we booked a one night showing of a new documentary REMEMBERING PLAYLAND and it played for nearly six months. Audiences discovered and rediscovered the great amusement park that had been a favorite of bay area children and adults alike, just twelve blocks from the theater. And now the same filmmaker has finished his film on the more amazing SUTRO'S BATHS, home to many astonishing attractions and surprising stories. We think that you will be mesmerized. I was very young when I went there but have since learned I was not alone in taking away life-long memories of Tom Thumb's wardrobe and real mummies. Director Tom Wyrsh has lined up a fantastic series of special events. He has also created a wonderful exhibit in our lobby.

Once the world's largest swimming pool establishment, the building burnt down in 1966. The ruins remain today. Journey back in time to revisit Sutro Baths when it was in full operation. See: The Seven Pools, Sutro Railway, Merry Way, Sutro's Cliff House, Ice Skating Rink, Egyptian Mummy Museum, Tom Thumb Exhibit, Musee Mecanique, Torture Museum, Lord's Last Supper, Ito, Giggling Ghost, 1963 & 1966 Fires, Sutro Ruins, and much, much more. A nostalgic trip back in time told by historians and the people that were there. Through interviews, film footage, and hundreds of photographs, this film not only allows us to relearn and finally understand Sutro Baths' history, but also to feel and experience it. Director Tom Wyrsh has been appearing on radio where the phone lines light up as many people want to discuss Sutro's. And Tom has prepared a knockout set up in the lobby". Gary Meyer, owner and curator, Balboa Movie Theater. Please see the Balboa's web site for screening times and other updates at www.balboamovies.com

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December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Holiday Party 10:30am
11	12	13	14	15 Mystery Adventure 6:30pm	16 Afternoon with Books 1:30pm	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time.

Marian Wright Edelman, Children's activist

**Avanti Editor**

AAUW

San Francisco Branch

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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

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. This was true even for one as famous as Madame Marie Curie. As a result, her groundbreaking 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 indicative 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.