



President's Message

The beginning of a new year is a good time to take stock. Our branch continues to thrive. We plan to send 15 girls to Tech Trek again, and we are working on a possible new program in conjunction with another nonprofit organization.

Looking back, however, we lost three very devoted branch members who will be sorely missed.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

In Memoriam

Stephen Butler, our first male member of the branch and the devoted husband of Elaine Butler, our Tech Trek Co-Coordinator, died suddenly and unexpectedly on Sunday, October 30, 2011. He had held many board positions, including treasurer, Avanti editor, and website editor. A branch memorial service was held on November 6, 2011, for all to share memories and to attempt to deal with our shock at his sudden passing at age 65.



Stephen Butler



Dolores Santos

Honorary 50-year life member Dolores Santos passed away December 15, 2011 at the age of 99. Dolores was born in the Philippines and followed her sister to the US in the late 1930's. She received her B.A. from UCLA in 1941 and met her husband there.

She married her late husband Major Augustine Santos (US Army) in 1947 and followed him to postings in Japan and Germany. They finally settled in San Francisco where Dolores worked for the FDIC for 22 years. After retirement Dolores embarked on many adventures including riding an elephant in Thailand, a camel in Egypt, walking the Great Wall in China and hot air ballooning over Kenya. Dolores lived life to the fullest and will be missed.



Jane Williams

Long-time member Jane Williams died on December 10, 2011 at her home at the age of 93. Jane was a retired teacher, librarian and social worker. She had a B.A. from UC Berkeley and an M.A. from Cal Poly. Jane worked at Colma Intermediate School as the school librarian with another long-time, now deceased member Terry Burns. Jane chaired the Reproductive Choice Committee in the past and belonged to the Travel Club, International Cuisine and several of our book groups. Jane attended most of our general and board meetings until recently. She encouraged everyone she met to join AAUW. She also never missed sending a birthday or anniversary card to her AAUW friends and supported Tech Trek. Andrea Laudate was one of the women she convinced to join AAUW. We will miss her.

International Book Group

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

The Mystery/Adventure Book Group will meet on Thursday, January 26th at 7:30 PM. Book and Author: QUEEN OF THE FLOWERS by Karen Greenwood. Hostess and Reviewer: Harriet Sollod, 186 Stonecrest Dr.SF. RSVP: Harriet at 585-6869.

Afternoon with Books

Afternoon with Books will meet Friday, January 20th at 1:30 PM. Book and Author: THE BIG HOUSE: A CENTURY IN THE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN SUMMER HOUSE, by George Howe Colt. Hostess: Connie Armitage, 1952 16th Ave. SF. RSVP: Connie at 681-2110.

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

Wednesday, January 11th, 6:30 p.m., for potluck with meeting starting at 7 p.m., at Marilyn's Leal's home, 4325 19th Street. All members are invited. RSVP Marilyn at 626-4110.

Ruth and the Cable Act

Pat Camarena

Ruth ran for Congress from Florida just six years after women got the right to vote. Florida had not even ratified the 19th amendment at the time. She lost but only by 800 votes. Two years later she won. Her opponent tried to unseat her claiming that she had automatically lost her citizenship by previously marrying a foreigner. Even though her English husband was dead and even though this particular injustice against women had been rectified with the passage of the Cable Act in 1922, he creatively claimed that the seven years necessary to return her citizenship eligibility were not over when she filed to run. The fact that the state had accepted her filing fee and placed her on the ballot seemingly did not matter to him nor did the voters' democratic decision.

In a clear indication that men retained party power in this pre-Roosevelt era, his challenge was accepted by the Elections Committee of the House. Ruth argued the case herself though she was not an attorney or even a college graduate. She turned his challenge into an impassioned plea for fair treatment and democratic due process. Amidst national publicity, she was seated in Congress. She went on to become the first congresswoman to serve on a major committee. She helped write legislation to create Everglades National Park. Later in life, she became minister to Denmark under Roosevelt - the first American woman to hold a major diplomatic assignment. She also worked with the State Department to help draft the UN charter and was a delegate to the UN General Assembly. Thanks to the passage of the Cable Act, women such as Ruth could move more freely around the world and marry foreigners. American women who remained in this country could marry immigrants without endangering their legal status...something that we do not question in this day and age. Ruth Bryan Owen, daughter of William Jennings Bryan, definitely benefited from this act and so did our nation.

Travel Group

We are still looking for people to lead a trip. It would work if a member agreed to be in charge of just one trip. If you have a favorite day trip or would like to visit a new place and are willing to lead it, please let us know. Contact Elaine Butler at 415-826-3172.

AAUW Member Honored at White House Event

The White House recognized 12 community heroes last week, including Tamara Brown, AAUW member and former president of the AAUW Buffalo (NY) Branch. Brown, founder of Buffalo's Tech Savvy program, was honored for her work to engage women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. AAUW staff joined Brown at the ceremony.

http://www.aauw.org/media/pressreleases/ChampionOfChange_120811.cfm



Angie Durso

Holiday Party



Andrea Laudate and Noelle Kelton, Owner of Primo Patio

Members enjoyed good food and great company at the San Francisco Branch Holiday Party held at Primo Patio in December. The occasion also afforded the opportunity to celebrate the 90th birthday of long time AAUW member Angie Durso.



Gisele Araujo and Roberta Guise



AAUW San Francisco Branch Members

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.

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

It's always a good feeling to find yourself completely enjoying a show you'd feared would be awful. When I realized that this year's Best of Broadway series included **Bring It On**, I shuddered. Who wants to see a musical based on a movie about high school cheerleaders? It turns out that I did! Big time! This isn't just a show for teenagers – it's a show for everyone.

Bring It On is wonderful – dynamic, full of life, amazing dancing, incredible gymnastics, and a cast that seems truly involved in, and in love with, what they're doing. Alex Lacamoire's Music Supervision and Dance arrangements are superb, Andy Blankenbuehler's direction and choreography is breathtaking. The sets and costumes are a delight to the eyes, and the lights shows and video add the perfect touch. Do see **Bring It On** – it'll leave you energized as well as entertained.

Bring It On, through Jan.7. Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market Street (corner Market St./ Hyde St.) , Tues – Sat 8pm, Wed, Sat. 2 pm. Tickets -- by Phone 888-746-1799, or

Orpheum Box Office, (call 415-551-2000 for b.o. hours) or Online at shnsf.com

SF Playhouse chose Tennessee Williams' **Period of Adjustment** as this year's holiday play. It takes place on Christmas Eve, and is about two couples, both of whom are going through a "period of adjustment" in which their marriages seem to be failing. Will the newlyweds give it another try? Will the longer married couple resolve their differences? Of course they will – Williams described this play as a "serious comedy", so a happy ending is guaranteed. Not one of Williams' better known plays, "**Period...**" was written at a difficult time in his career. As a beginning playwright in the 1940's and 50's, he'd had a series of huge Broadway successes. It became impossible to keep up with his own reputation – no one can write hit after hit. Williams, by the 1960's, was tired, and trying to find the formula for more hits, he experimented with different forms – comedy, theatre of the absurd, etc. He also heavily experimented with drugs and alcohol. Never again did Williams' work reach the heights of **Glass Menagerie, Streetcar Named Desire, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**, and other early plays. "**Period...**" isn't a bad play – it's a perfectly fine play -- it's just not one of his best. Still, some of the dialogue brings back the beautiful, almost poetic language of those great earlier plays.

As usual, the Playhouse does a bang-up job. Bill English's direction is flawless, the lead men, Patrick Alparone and Johnny Moreno seem born to play their roles, and Maggie Mason, the leading lady, is perfectly cast, and the supporting roles are well fleshed out. Nina Ball's set is beyond amazing – the walls actually start to crack before our eyes, as the house, part of a development built over a cavern, shakes apart as it slowly sinks. Tatiana Genser's authentic 1960's costumes made me both sad and nostalgic – hard to accept that what we all wore then are now period costumes.

All said, "**Period...**" is a fun play, beautifully produced and well worth seeing.

Period of Adjustment, through Jan 14. The SF Playhouse, 533 Sutter St.

Box Office 677-9596 Tues, Wed, Thurs 7pm, Fri– Saturday 8pm, and Saturday 3pm.

Tech Trek Report

Time is flying by and I need to catch up. I need your help to fundraise. The membership has all contributed. I am looking for contacts in companies and organizations that might be willing to sponsor a girl. If you have any ideas, please let us know. The teacher nominations are due by January 31, 2012. Remind any 7th grade math or science teachers that you know. Support for Families will let us use their meeting space again at no charge.

Elaine Butler 826-3172 and Michelle Mammini 346-9114

Tech Trek Pledges

The Mary Wolford Foundation

Thank you so much!

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

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.

January Birthdays

Fan	Kong	January 3
Susan	Kwock	January 5
Melissa	Buron	January 11
Pat	Morin	January 15
Marion	Colton	January 19
Terese	Terry	January 27

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.

Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund

The San Francisco branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) 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 2012-2013. 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 2013. **Completed applications are due by March 1, 2012.**

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

Birthday Not Announced?

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

AAUW CA Annual Convention

The 2012 Annual AAUWCA Convention will be held April 13 – 15, at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel.

AAUWSF Board

Co-Presidents

Deirdre Araujo

Daraujo@Exploratorium.edu

415) 505-3746

Barbara Spencer

barbaraspencer@gmail.com

415) 221-6690

Education Fund VP

Pat Morin

MorinPatr@aol.com

Legal Advocacy CoVPs

Mary Suter

marSuter@yahoo.com

415) 665-1185

Lucretia Axtell

Axs2@hotmail.com

415)665-4183

415) 389-1885

Membership VP

Nancy Shapiro

nancy.shapiro@comcast.net

415) 731-2654

Program VP

Andrea Laudate

mamalaudate@yahoo.com

415) 864-6789

Secretary

Priscilla Kelly

theKellys2@comcast.net

Treasurer/Finance

Kathe Traynor

ktraynor@aol.com

415) 665-3212

Avanti and Web Editor

Cathy Corcoran

CorcoranCF@gmail.com

415) 341-0206

Public Policy

Sheila Bost

wawonast@earthlink.net

415)664-4985

415) 626-4110

Program Committee

Kelly Joseph

kelly.wysinger@sbcglobal.net

Peggy Kavounas

pkavounas@aol.com

Silver Jubilee Fund Chair

Pat Camarena

tapPat157@aol.com

415) 285-7589

Tech Trek

Elaine Butler

ElaineButler124@Comcast.net

415) 826-3172

Michelle Mammini

415)346-9114

mmammini@pacbell.net

Hospitality

Marilyn Leal

mleal@mac.com

January 2012

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

I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift should be curiosity.

Eleanor Roosevelt



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

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.