



President's Message

Our branch is working with a nonprofit organization called About Face in support of its application to AAUW national for a Community Action grant. About Face develops programs on media literacy to help women and girls understand and resist harmful media messages that affect their self-esteem and body image. About Face's Executive Director Jennifer Berger attended our January Board meeting to introduce us to their programs. Jennifer has been working closely with Susan Kwock, our Education Fund Vice-President, to develop a proposal for the Community Action grant. It promises to be an exciting and rewarding program if the proposal is funded. To learn more, visit: www.about-face.org/

Our own branch members, Mary Suter and Peggy Kavounas, have planned an innovative and informative program to be held on **Sunday, February 12, 1 p.m.** on Pay Equity and Title IX. Details are provided in an additional announcement in this issue. Please plan to attend.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

LAF General Meeting

Sunday, February 12, 2012, at 1:00 PM at Peggy Kavounas' home, 565 Marina Boulevard.

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to combat sex discrimination in the workplace and in schools and colleges. Pay Equity and Title IX compliance are important components of LAF. Peggy Kavounas will outline key features of Title IX which covers not only gender discrimination in work and in school sports participation, but also sexual harassment in both of those areas. Mary Suter will give a presentation highlighting the broad scope of LAF.

Following the presentation, there will be a discussion and fun activity to reflect differences in pay. This

will entertain and enlighten us as we all discuss how past statistics have not always done well towards women workers. With this information, we hope to set goals to make a better future for all women. Only when women have economic parity will there be real justice and freedom for ourselves and our families. If you understand the need for equal pay for men and women, please come to the general meeting.

Tech Trek Report

A call for interviewers for the weekend of March 17th and 18th. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by meeting some interesting young women or on Sunday. There are morning shifts 10:00-1pm and afternoon shifts 1-4pm. We like teams of 2 or 3 to do interviews so invite your friends to join you. If you'd like to interview the family instead - that is possible too. The questions are already chosen and the location is 1663 Mission St. 7th Floor. I work there during the week and the rooms are great and private. Please let me know if you are available at 826-3172 or elainebutler124@comcast.net, or Michelle at: 346-9114 or MMammini@pacbell.net. Your friends do not have to be AAUW members. We lost several crucial personnel this year so Michelle and I really need your help.

Donors - Thank You!

Connie Armitage, in honor of Stephen Butler and Jane Williams, long time supporters of the program.

Claudia Roehl, Mother of 2011 Tech Trek Camper, to pay it forward.

If you know of donors outside of AAUW, who might want to help a girl go to camp, let us know. Our Branch has been very generous.

Elaine Butler & Michelle Mammini
Tech Trek Coordinators

Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 8th, 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.

Afternoon with Books

Friday, February 17th at 1:30PM

Our next book is also nonfiction: Book/Author: The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman. Hostess: Steffi Pincson, 1845 Leavenworth, #201, SF. Carpools are advised. Please let Steffi know if you are coming at: 474-3439 or steffia@yahoo.com

International Book Group

Monday, February 20th, 7:00pm

The International Book Group will meet at Sheila Bost's house, 19 Wawona St. RSVP Sheila at 664-4985 or wawonast@earthlink.net. We are reading The Dew Breaker by Edwidge Danticat.

Mystery/Adventure

Thursday, February 23rd at 7:30 pm

Elaine Butler is reviewing an author from Iceland, Yrsa Sigurdardottir. The book is: My Soul to Take. Hostess: Corrine Sacks at 1835 Franklin St. #401 SF. RSVP: Corrine at 292-4130. Carpools are advised.

International Dinner

Friday, February 24th, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. –

California Culinary Academy,

350 Rhode Island Street, San Francisco. Please join us for an elegant five-course contemporary New American dinner at Le Cordon Blue Restaurant. The cost will be \$25, including tax and tip, with a \$5 cash bar. Details will be forthcoming by e-mail. For inquiries, contact Nancy Shapiro at nancy.shapiro@comcast.net.

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

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.

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

A Clarion Force for Change

Pat Camarena

From the very beginning of our nation, more women than men sewed for a living but earned less for doing the same jobs. Seamstresses in the pre-industrial era barely eked out an existence enduring 14-16 hour days with little pay. Later on, factory work did not afford any better working conditions nor pay. Immigrant women, for the most part, sat in badly lit tuberculosis-breeding rooms and barely earned enough to survive. Even after most factories unionized and working conditions improved, women's work in the garment industry was rigidly defined as inherently inferior to men. Men called "tailors" were paid more and called "skilled" labor. The actual sewing that was done by women was considered "unskilled". This is when Clara Lemlich came on the scene. After the great strikes of 1909, these immigrant women, including young Clara from the Ukraine, were able to organize most shops to bargain collectively with the newly formed Women's Trade Union League. Nevertheless, despite much greater numbers of women than men in the garment industry, the successor, International Ladies Garment

Workers Union, continued to be dominated by men. Clara Lemlich advocated for change in the intolerable working conditions, challenging the male leadership and finally being blacklisted by the conservative ILGWU. She was arrested seventeen times on picket lines. At one point, she was beaten up by thugs and left lying in the street bloody with broken ribs. For the rest of her long life, Clara, a Communist Party member, went on to throw her energies into the women's suffrage movement, speaking out for consumer issues affecting women, anti-Vietnam war activities, and civil rights causes. Even in her last years, after settling in Southern California and residing in the Jewish Home for the Aged in Los Angeles, Clara continued her advocacy for the empowerment of workers. She even persuaded the retirement home management to join in the United Farm Workers' produce boycotts. Then she prodded the health care workers to organize. Just last year New York City held a commemoration of the 100th year since the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in New York City in which 123 young women and 23 men garment workers had died. An award was named for Clara Lemlich during that time and given to thirty women activists, many in their 80s and 90s.

Sweatshops still exist and garment workers are still exploited where minimum wage laws and health and safety issues are ignored.

www.aflcio.org
www.jwa.org
cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com
www.apwa.org

AAUW CA Annual Convention

The 2012 Annual AAUWCA Convention will be held April 13 – 15, at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel. In 2012 for the first time in, every member of AAUW CA will have the opportunity to vote for directors, officers and resolutions. We are ready to go with electronic voting and we will not vote at convention this year! Candidates have already submitted their election materials and you can read their statements on the website, in the Elections & Nominations section on the Candidates Page:

<http://www.aauw-ca.org/>

A Mutual Onus

Cathy Foxhoven

What is a “mutual onus”? The definition of “onus” is a burden or a responsibility – a duty. “Mutual” means... share. One of my dear friends from AAUW, Diane Silven, gave me a copy of *HALF THE SKY* for Christmas two years ago. I began reading it and found it so disturbing that I couldn't read it at night – it was hard to sleep. I could only read it while traveling on Cal Train to teach in San Francisco.

The stories of global women's issues were so powerful, and in finishing the book, I knew that I couldn't ignore their plight. I had to do more than making a donation – I had to tell those stories in the only way I could – through the power of theatre. It became an “onus” and I needed to share this responsibility with others.

A MUTUAL ONUS is a compilation of monologues about real women and their continued suffering in the developing countries, as well as here in our country. You will recognize their stories – only the names have been changed to protect their identities.

It is hard to imagine that such cruelty could be inflicted on anyone, but there is hope and help because of international outcries. You have the opportunity to help these women and girls by seeing this production and generously donating to organizations that are helping give them hope and a future. “34 Million Friends” provides for maternal health care – P.A.V.E. brings an awareness that we don't need to suffer silently when we have been sexually violated.

“A Mutual Onus”

An original social justice play by Cathy Foxhoven, Laura Schuhriemen, & Jane Roberts

March 10, 2012 at 1PM
 Burlingame Library - Lane Room
 480 Primrose Road
 Burlingame, CA

April 20, 2012 at 7PM
 Academy of Art University Theater
 79 New Montgomery
 San Francisco, CA

Suggested donation of \$10.00

Proceeds benefit “34 Million Friends” & P.A.V.E.
 (Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment)

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

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

Ready for an evening of unmitigated fun? Then hurry over to ACT and catch Lorenzo Pisoni, in his one man show **Humor Abuse**.

Lorenzo, son of Pickle Family Circus co-founders, clowns Larry Pisoni and Peggy Snider, presents an hilarious and touching account of what it is like to grow up, literally, in the circus. He started performing in the circus when he was two years old. When he was six, his father's two partner clowns, Geoff Hoyle and Bill Irwin left the big top. Larry needed a new partner, and decided to keep it in the family, so he had his six year old sign a contract, making him a partner. Lorenzo began performing full time. He learned it all -- juggling, pratfalls, his father's famous Falling Down the Stairs routine, the trunk act -- all of it. His schooling -- well that was iffy since the circus was always on tour, but he picked up enough here and there. His parents separated, and he became his father's best friend. Larry left the circus when Lorenzo was eleven, but

Lorenzo continued working in it through high school, then began to realize there was life outside of clowning. He went to college, worked in show business, took his own clown circus to Las Vegas, acted in serious plays on the legitimate stage. **Humor Abuse** is the sum total of his experiences.

Lorenzo speaks of the kinds of abuse a child performer suffers -- the need to do the trick over and over till it's not just right, but till it's perfect -- the physical dangers of clown performance, the emotional ups and down of working with a parent who relies more and more on alcohol to keep him going. But it's always with love, and always in the spirit of the circus. Towards the end of the show, he recites an injury list -- a multitude of shattered ribs, both legs broken four times, concussion, both wrists broken, etc., etc., etc. It's a laundry list of his father's injuries. He spares us hearing about his own -- but in the show he talks about the fall that ended his father's career -- the fall that broke Larry's back when he landed badly. Then he does that routine, including the fall. That's what clowns do.

For those of us who remember the Pickle Family Circus, the show is a trip down nostalgia lane. The backdrop, the banners, many of the props are the originals from the PFC. We see Lorenzo perform a trick, and see slide projections showing his six year old self doing the same thing. The show has lots of slides showing the past, the family, the performances. We see six year old Lorenzo with a life size dummy of himself. And then the adult Lorenzo brings out the actual dummy and tells us stories about working with it with his father.

The show is a delight -- an amalgam of circus fun, a true family story, a study of father-son relationships, and enough good humor to keep the audience laughing all night. Don't miss it -- it's a must see!!!

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.

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 may benefit from the scholarship, please check the Silver Jubilee Fund information on the AAUW San Francisco website at www.aauwsf.org

February Birthdays

Margel	Kaufman	February 8
Marilyn	Leal	February 10
Corrine	Sacks	February 25
Joanne	Walton	February 26

Birthday Not Announced?

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

Thought Leadership Symposium for Women

Here's an event that you or a woman you know may want to attend: the "Thought Leadership Symposium for Women." It's the brainchild of Roberta Guise, business consultant and AAUW SF branch member.

According to Roberta, this may be the first conference of its kind for women who want to make the leap from expert to acknowledged influencers in their field of expertise. She says, "There are too few women in key idea-influencing areas of our lives, and I'm on a singular mission to increase the number."

If you have an idea that you know could make a major impact in your field or beyond, or if you've wanted to write a book and need something to spark you into action, and you want to leave a legacy of ideas, you should attend the symposium. And if you think you should be acknowledged or your ideas more visible, you should attend.

Thought leadership takes focused effort and guidance, and to keep participants' progress on track, Roberta is including 12 monthly group teleconferences as part of the symposium fee.

Breaking news: Roberta has secured Riane Eisler, Ph.D., the distinguished social scientist and best-selling author ("The Chalice and the Blade" and "The Real Wealth of Nations"), as special guest speaker. About half of Dr. Eisler's presentation will be interactive discussion with participants.

The Symposium is limited to a maximum of 15 women, and is being held in San Francisco, February 24-26.

For more information and to register, visit www.ThoughtLeadingWomenMeet.com or contact Roberta directly, roberta@guisemarketing.com or 415-979-0611

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February 2012

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

Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.

Princess Diana



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 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.