



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

www.aauwsf.org

April 2012

President's Message

Come to the California AAUW State Convention! This is the last time it will be held nearby until 2016. Events start on Friday, April 13th: a performance from area elementary school students will present *Bullies Anonymous* at 1:30pm, followed by a discussion of Cyber-Bullying presented by the Napa Valley Branch. At 3:00pm, join us for a special screening of "Miss Representation" – accompanied by a Program-in-a-Box. Saturday evening's dinner conversation with the film's director, Jennifer Siebel-Newsom, is "Re-envisioning Women as Leaders in Our Society." If you would like to attend any part of the convention, they are accepting day-of registrations. Please let your branch leaders know if you need help with transportation. (I will be coordinating volunteers throughout the convention.)

Looking back on the International Women's Day Summit events of March 8th and 9th, I was reminded of the energy and community spirit that galvanized our many sister organizations preparing for the Beijing Conference in 1995. Then I was a newlywed, had just started at the science museum, and was gearing up for my first term as San Francisco AAUW branch president. It was amazing to reunite with such dedicated women and to see how many interesting projects had developed since that time. (See summary below).

Thanks to the branch members and Tech Trek alumnae who helped interview this year's applicants.

Remember, if you missed the performance of "Mutual Onus" last month, you have one last chance at the Academy of Art University Theater, April 20th at 7pm. (79 New Montgomery Street, SF)

Deirdre Araujo, Co-President

International Women's Day Summit

International Women's Day Summit was designed to bring together leaders to discuss gender equality in the area of Media, Environment, Education, Training, Policy, and Government. The women who attended from Albania, Greece, Georgia, Iceland, Denmark, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Romania, Slovak Republic, and Turkey were Government Ministry advisors, Family Law Attorneys, Public Defenders, Centers for Women's Rights Directors and more.

Honorees at the Thursday luncheon moderated by Rose Aguilar of KALW were inspiring: Liesl Gernholtz, of Human Rights Watch, spoke of her work in Haiti and of changing the definition of rape in South Africa. Retired Navy Commander Zoe Dunning is the first and only openly gay person allowed to remain on active duty prior to the end of Don't Ask Don't Tell. Keynote Speaker Steinunn Guojónsdóttir is the director of a new Icelandic shelter for women who are human trafficking victims and/or former prostitutes. She was previously director of UNIFEM Iceland. The honorees also received mural-portraits made for them by the artist Wanda K. Whitaker. The Friday programs included Institutionalizing Gender Equity; trends for Women in STEM* (Moderated by branch member Kathleen Cha); Food, Water, Energy and Women; and Perspective, Portrayal, and Position: Women and the Media. *With key mention of Tech Trek, the Exploratorium's Girls Science Institute, and the Science and Health Education Partnership at UCSF.

Board Meeting

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

Tech Trek Report

Thank you to the following for making the Tech Trek Candidate Interviews such a great success:

Venue: Support for Families of Children with Disabilities for providing 3 meeting rooms.

Time: Interviewers: Pat Spencer, Michelle Mammini, Barbara Scheer, Kelly Joseph, Sheila Bost, Joanne Mandel, Corrine & Mitch Sacks, Nancy Shapiro, Susan Kwock, Pat Camarena, Joan Walton, Esther Wong.

Former Camper Interviewers: Nina Guevara, Esalya Liang, Emily Brandau, Kayla My, Hanan Sinada, Shawn Bogan, Michelle Von Merta Sustarich, Jane Saelai, Michelle Wong and Tatiana Spisz.

The 2012 Candidate interviews of 38 girls were held the weekend of March 17-18 from 9:30 until 3 PM. This last Monday, March 26th, we gathered for a light supper at Sheila Bost's home and difficult decisions were made. This year's 14 campers represent 9 schools. They are: Tiana Kujawski, Mai Sinada, Cathelin Blackett, Gina Liu, Katarina Spisz, Flori Marisol Aguilar, Elaine Wayne, Sarah Ancheta, Sarah Tam, Shania Lee, Alisa Nascimemto, Ying Cui, Kristen Ikehara, Madeleine Goets and Pooja Singh.

Thank you San Francisco Branch for making this possible! Watch the May AVANTI for the date of the Send-off Party.

THANK YOU TO OUR MARCH DONORS

- Peggy Kavounas
- Maureen Keenan
- Corrine & Mitch Sacks
- Marilyn Smith
- Pat Spencer

Thank you to every volunteer, Camper family, AAUW member and the Mary Wohlford Foundation. It is through the efforts of all of you that allow us to continue to participate in this AAUW (CA) project.

Elaine Butler & Michelle Mammini
Tech Trek Co-Coordinator.

International Book Group

The International Book Group will meet on April 16th at 7:00 p.m. at Jane Hansen's house, 1310 Fulton Street, Apt. 2. Call Jane at (415) 251-8350 to RSVP. We will be discussing *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka.

Afternoon With Books

Afternoon with Books will be held on Friday, April 20 at 1:30 PM. Hostess: Pat Spencer, 505 Ortega St. RSVP Pat at 661-0347. Book/Author: *The Hare with the Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance*, by Edmund De Waal. This is a nonfiction book that should elicit a lively discussion.

Mystery/Adventure

Mystery/Adventure Books will be held on Thursday, April 26th at 7:30 PM. Please note Change in Hostess/Location: Joanne Mandel, 12 Marne Ave. (Miraloma Park). Reviewer: Corrine Sacks. RSVP: Joanne at 665-7329. Book/Author: *Drowning River*, by Christobal Kent.

Travel Group

Saturday, May 5th at 2 PM. Destination - Mission Bay: Hidden Waters.

RSVP: Elaine Butler, elainebutler124@comcast.net or call 826-3172. We will meet as described below.

From placid waters fished by ancient peoples to the biggest construction project in San Francisco since 1906, the transformation of Mission Bay has been incredible. Gain a unique perspective on the area, and discover a hidden park and a forgotten creek. (If it's a bay, where's the water?)

Meet in plaza on south side of Caltrain Station, 4th & King Streets. Muni: N Judah, T Third, 30 Stockton, 45 Union, 47 Van Ness.

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

Jane Gets Involved

Pat Camarena

Sometimes it takes some very personal event to get your motor running and for you to get involved on a higher plane. That seems to be what motivated Jane to become an activist back in the 1980s. What would it take to get you up and running in 2012? There is so much choice, is it hard to decide where to put your energies?

To back up the story a bit, let's remember that in April we have the annual commemoration of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. Few if any human survivors are around anymore to get up at five in the morning and show up at Lotta's Fountain on Market Street. Certainly not me. However, there do remain a few of the small buildings quickly constructed to house citizens whose homes were destroyed by the quake itself and the subsequent fire and broken utility connections. By the fall of 1906 it became clear that tents and sidewalk shelters (that's where my grandparents camped out) were inadequate for the long haul. The City set about getting more than 5343 small redwood and fir shacks installed in the parks for citizens to rent with the option to buy. Later, by the fall of 1907, the City was making a rapid recovery and the shack tenants began to cart away the small buildings to private lots. Over the years the location of the remaining shacks became blurry in people's memories as they became incorporated in remodelings and were added on to. Today about nineteen are still known to exist. Thanks to one lady who had a need for shelter, we can see some of these earthquake survivors today.

Fast forward to 1982 when Jane Cryan was looking for a small rental cottage reasonably priced in the Sunset. It was love at first sight when she saw the run-down dwelling on 24th Avenue. Quickly she negotiated a year's lease and began to renovate the five small rooms. She began to research the history of the cottage and to lobby for the preservation of the other existing earthquake cottages still in existence in the western parts of the City. Her efforts led to the creation of city landmark #171, a complex of four shacks. One other earthquake shack is on display today as part of the Conservation Corner at the San Francisco Zoo. Two others are in the Presidio of San Francisco. In 2002, the Western Neighborhoods Project became involved in saving four cottages on

Kirkham St. The 1989 earthquake threw Jane for a loop and she moved back to her Wisconsin roots to become active with the local Board of Appeals but not before she could see the results of getting her motor running here in San Francisco and leaving us locals with a lesson about how one person's activism can get the ball rolling and help preserve San Francisco's historical legacy. Activism pays off. AAUW can supply plenty of avenues.

www.outsidelands.org

www.nps.gov/goga

www.theguardsmen.com

AAUW Research on Bullying

Revealing findings by AAUW were presented in a paper entitled CROSSING THE LINE, on Bullying and Sexual Harassment from their survey of almost 2000 students conducted in May and June 2011. Mary Suter, LAF Co-VP, shares some key points: Sexual harassment has long been an unfortunate part of the climate in middle and high schools in the United States. Often considered a kind of bullying, sexual harassment by definition involves sex and gender and therefore warrants separate attention.

Based on a nationally representative survey of 1,965 students in grades 7-12 conducted in May and June 2011, CROSSING THE LINE: SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT SCHOOL provides fresh evidence about students; experiences with sexual harassment, including being harassed, harassing someone else, or witnessing harassment. The survey asked students to share their reactions to their experience with sexual harassment and the impact on them. It also asked them about their ideas for how schools can respond to and prevent sexual harassment. Students offered ideas for reducing sexual harassment in their school, including designation a person they can talk to (39 per cent), providing online resources (22 per cent) and holding in-class discussions (31 percent). Allowing students to anonymously report problems was a top recommendation (57 percent), as was enforcing sexual harassment policies and punishing harassers (51 percent). These suggestions should spur strategies and approaches for responding to and preventing sexual harassment in school.

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: corcoranf@gmail.com

Victory for Mansourian Plaintiffs

For seven years AAUW has supported former University of California, Davis, wrestlers, Arezou Mansourian, Christine Ng, and Lauren Mancuso in their Title IX lawsuit against the Regents of the University of California. AAUW disbursed more than \$100,000 to support the case, and many AAUW members attended last year's three week trial. On February 16, 2012, 10 years after the case began, the two parties reached an agreement to settle and resolve all remaining issues with \$1.35 million paid to the plaintiffs' counsel for attorney fees and other cost incurred during the lengthy case.

A Mutual Onus

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

April 20th, 2012 at 7PM, Academy of Art University, Theatre, 79 New Montgomery St., SF.

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

Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund Deadline Extended to April 30th, 2012

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 April 30th, 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

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/>

Member News Corner**Marilyn Leal, Recuperating Nicely at Home**

Member Sheila Bost provided the Board with an update on Marilyn, our head of Hospitality. Sheila spoke with Marilyn after her knee surgery and found her to be in excellent spirits. Arthroscopic surgery was conducted down the center of her knee, leaving Marilyn with some stitches. Marilyn spent two nights in the hospital (of which she gave rave reviews), and is now at home with a PT visiting her at her house. Marilyn is standing up straight now, walking around and seems very pleased with the results and her recovery so far. Her daughter, Mary, and Ann and the kids downstairs, are looking after her. Marilyn is in good form and above all else, she is looking forward to hosting the April Board meeting at her house.

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

SF Playhouse scores high again, with the smashing West Coast premiere of Annie Baker's **The Aliens**, directed with sensitivity and feeling by Lila Neugebauer. Baker has won two Obie awards, including for this play, and been nominated for both Drama Desk and Outer Circle Critics' Awards. **The Aliens** is part of a Baker trilogy of plays, each different, but all set in Shirley VT. **Body Awareness** closed recently at the Aurora Theatre, and Marin Theatre Company opens **Circle Mirror Transformation** in August.

To say that **Aliens** is an unusual play is an understatement. Much of the play, perhaps a third, is silence. The play opens -- house lights go down, stage lights come up to reveal two men, hanging out in a beat-up back yard. Minutes go by -- neither speaks -- one moves but barely -- finally one looks up, gazes around, "Cool man" says he, and that's it -- more minutes of silence. Eventually we learn they are friends, one a would-be writer, the other his buddy/admirer. We realize that both men are stoned -- hence the inertia and long silent pauses. A third character appears -- a teen age boy who works in the café whose yard the men are hanging out in. He tells them he's been sent to ask them to leave, the yard is for staff only. The men are vaguely menacing and he seems intimidated, but gradually, over a series of short scenes set in the days that follow, he becomes their young buddy and mentee. The men once formed a rock band, which had a series of different names, The Aliens being one of these. The name itself is taken from a poem by Charles Bukowski, whom the would-be novelist admires to the point of deification. Slowly the characters develop -- and then it's Intermission. Act II begins with just one of the men in the yard. The boy appears, asks where the other man is and is told he's ill. Suddenly the three character play we've been watching, the play with two main characters and one peripheral one, has transformed itself into a two character play, and the peripheral boy is now a main character. Very unusual stuff -- very risk taking for the author, but it works like gangbusters. Perhaps the most unusual thing is the scene in Act II in which the older man speaks of his childhood obsession with the word "ladder". He tells how he repeated the word over and over for days -- and then he starts to repeat it. After

the first 25 or 30 reps I began to wonder how long this would continue -- eventually, after almost five minutes of hearing nothing but "ladder", I could hear that the word itself was telling a story about the man, his boyhood, and how he became who he is. It was a breathtaking realization -- that this not alone COULD, but DID work on the stage -- that no author had ever tried it before -- that sound could become transformative meaning -- this is groundbreaking material. Though perhaps not for all tastes, **The Aliens** should be seen -- it's a rare piece of theatre. Try to get to it! The actors, Brian Miskell, Peter O'Connor, and Haynes Thigpen are perfect in their respective roles. These are not easy roles to play -- the slightest insincerity, the slightest theatricality -- would blow them to bits. The actors don't *play* the roles, they simply *are* the characters they play. Lila Neugebauer's light handed direction, delicacy of touch, is exactly what the play requires. Bill English's set is real -- we've all seen back yards like this, sprawling, seedy, filled with crumbling old furniture, dying greenery, crumbling fences, filthy dumpsters, lumpy concrete. The set is eloquent testimony to English's genius as a designer.

The Aliens, through May 5. The SF Playhouse, 533 Sutter St. Box Office 677-9596 Tues, Wed, Thurs 7pm, Fri-Saturday 8pm, and Saturday, Sunday (April 1 only) 3pm.

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.

Online AAUW Branch

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

April Birthdays

Patricia Arango	April 1
Joanne Mandel	April 6
Melly Metcalf	April 12
Holly Millar	April 21
Catherine Hsuan	April 23
Roberta Guise	April 28

Birthday Not Announced?

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

HERSTORY



Elaine Butler -- Filoli Garden

Audrey Cole -- Coit Tower

Members braved the hostile weather elements to attend HERSTORY this past Saturday morning. AAUWSF Programs Committee leaders Andrea Laudate and Peggy Kavounas presented a multimedia event with live readings from the many fascinating characters Pat Camarena has written about over the years for the Avanti Newsletter. A great discussion after the presentations followed. The event, held at Peggy's home on Sunday, March 31, 2012, was an informative and entertaining celebration in honor of Women's History Month.

AAUWSF Board

Co-Presidents

Deirdre Araujo

Daraujo@Exploratorium.edu

415) 505-3746

Barbara Spencer

barbaracspencer@gmail.com

415) 221-6690

Education Fund VP

Susan Kwock

cskwock@yahoo.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

Kelly Joseph

kelly.wysinger@sbcglobal.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

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

April 2012

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

The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers.

Juliette Gordon Low



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.