



President's Message

We have an exciting May program for you. The Member Social Event to be held on the 20th at the home of Peggy Kavounas will welcome Kathleen Cha who will speak and engage Martina Castro in conversation about her radio work telling the stories of the Bay Area. I am inviting the Coordinator of the Mission Girls to attend as my guest. I am looking forward to seeing you all there too.

AAUW CA Annual Convention



Speech Trek Finalists and Judges

Several San Francisco Branch members attended the AAUWCA Convention on April 13 – 15, at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel. A varied program included the state finals of Speech Trek. The three finalists spoke eloquently on the topic of Bullying.

Deirdre Araujo, Co-President

Installation Lunch and Scholarship Awards

Save the date for the 2012/2013 Branch Installation of Officers luncheon and Silver Jubilee Scholarship Awards presentation. Event details below:

Where: Chabaa Thai Restaurant, 2123 Irving St.

When: Sunday, June 24, 11am – 1pm

For reservations please send your \$25 check to:
AAUW-SF, P.O. Box 31405, San Francisco, CA 94131-0405.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 9th, 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.



Membership Social

Please join us for a special **AAUW Membership Social on May 20th, from 2-4 pm at the home of Peggy Kavounas, 565 Marina Blvd.** Kathleen Cha & Martina Castro (producer of KALW Crosscurrents) will speak to us on Women and the Media with a nod to AAUW. There will be an extra acknowledgement for all new members, those members who brought their Renewal Membership paper & dues to the Social, and those who have postmarked their Renewal & dues by May 20. This event treat will be announced at the Social.

RSVP by May 17th to Nancy Shapiro at 415-731-2654 or nancy.shapiro@comcast.net

Tech Trek Report

Thank you Donors!

- Angie Durso
- Soroptimists International San Francisco

Mark your calendars for the Tech Trek Tea Send-Off on Sunday, June 3rd from 3-5 PM. We will be meeting at the Grotto Room of Sports Basement, 1590 Bryant Street, San Francisco. More information will follow. Everyone is invited to meet the chosen girls and student interviewers and donors.

Elaine Butler & Michelle Mammini
Tech Trek Co-Coordinators.

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.

Afternoon With Books

The group is reading: **The Postmistress, by Sarah Blake, Friday, May 18, 1:30 PM**, at the home of Elaine Butler, 124 Amber Dr. (Diamond Heights). Please RSVP to Elaine at 826-3172 or elainebutler124@comcast.net and join us for a lively book discussion.

International Book Group

May's International Book Discussion Group will be held at 7pm on May 21st at the home of Paula Campbell, 338 Ewing Terrace. RSVP to: [415-567-1330](tel:415-567-1330). We will be reading **Chasing the Devil by Tim Butcher**.

Mystery/Adventure

Book/Author: **Lake News, by Barbara Delinsky**
Thursday, May 25th at 7:30 PM. Susan Peliks is both hostess and reviewer - she is taking on a big job. Her address is: 109/111 Sutro Heights, elevator available. Please RSVP to Susan at 668-2961.

Number 3306

Pat Camarena

For many years Olivia was bitter about how life had treated her. At age eighteen, newly engaged and looking forward with great anticipation to all the possibilities life might have in store, she was diagnosed with Hansen's Disease, then called leprosy. Her life totally changed. She was removed from her Hawaiian home and eventually relocated to Kalaupapa, a remote peninsula on the island of Molokai. At that time, 1934, there were no drugs to control this bacterial disease. Isolation was still thought to be the best treatment. What felt like a

prison at first to Olivia, over many years was to become her beloved home even after patients were not forced to live there anymore. Olivia became an activist. She waged a lifelong battle with the disease herself but also to reshape the public's sensitivity to the needs and rights of those suffering from this disease. Always an up-front no holds barred woman, on occasion she appeared before the Honolulu City Council seeking to improve the rights of Kalupapa residents. When she was seventy-two she wrote her memoirs partly to expose the pain and injustice of past treatment methods. She was inspired to do so after hearing the work "leper" used in an episode of TV's "Mash". She wrote a letter to Alan Alda, then the actor/writer for the popular show, and received an apologetic reply. In 1993 a Hawaiian filmmaker, Stephenie Castillo, received an Emmy for the documentary featuring Olivia and a few of the other residents. "Simple Courage" detailed the treatment of patients.

Olivia kept her initial intake patient number of 3306 all her life. However she had slowly begun to regain her dignity as a person and not just a number. She wanted people to see her for who she was and not the disease she had. Said she: "I have finally regained the sense of dignity that was taken away from me as a child. It has taken a long time for me to feel this way again. I'm glad I stuck it out."

Over the years as health methods changed and controlling drugs were introduced, Olivia began to travel, visiting California, Belgium, and New York where she attended a Leprosy Awareness Month program at the United Nations. She even took an Alaskan cruise when she was 85. However, whenever she was away she longed to return to her home on the beautiful peninsula of Kalaupapa. In Olivia's words: "A life of struggle, fighting the disease, fighting ignorance, fighting bureaucrats...trying not to be a statistic...trying to be a person". In 2001, Olivia Robello Breitha was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York.

www.idealeprosydignity.org

www.honoluluadvertizer.com (2006)

www.latimes.com (2006)

In Memoriam

Former SF branch LAF VP and later State LAF VP, Barbara Wood, died Sunday morning from Large Cell Lymphoma. She was a special person and friend to everyone she knew. A memorial service will be held on Saturday May 5th at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation 1750 28th Ave, San Francisco. Contact Tree her daughter at [415-681-9663](tel:415-681-9663).

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

Schwab Charitable Grant

The AAUWSF branch recently received a \$50 grant from the Schwab Charitable Fund. The grant was made possible by the generosity of Stephanie Graham.

AAUW 2012-2013 Fellowships and Grants Announced

AAUW's 2012-13 fellows and grantees have been selected! These 278 women from the United States and around the globe are pursuing graduate studies and projects that benefit women and girls. Visit our website to find out which remarkable women from your area have joined the ranks of AAUW's prestigious awardees. http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellows_directory/index.cfm

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

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/aauw/home.
US Congressional Voting Record aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm.

AAUWCA Elections

Every member can vote! There are six total vacancies on the 16-person board. President and secretary are up for election this year; the balance of the vacancies are directors. Please watch for the email or postcard with your voting access code.

For questions about the voting process and to learn about the candidates, go to **Elections & Nominations** page of our website or click here: <http://www.aauwca.org/index.cfm?go=pages.view&parent=428&pagesid=428>

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.

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

Today is an overview of six very different and very interesting plays seen in April. All have closed so there are no recommendations for what to see in May. Please note that individual writers, actors, and directors are only mentioned here when their work is especially noteworthy.

Curran Theatre, **The Caretaker**.

This powerful, three character, Harold Pinter play is typical of his early work. It's threatening, menacing, enigmatic, and violent. A homeless old man, stunningly played by Jonathan Pryce, is taken in by two brothers who maintain a puzzling love-hate relationship with each other. The cunning old man tries to pit the brothers against each other to protect his position in their home, but blood proves to be thicker than water and he is literally left out in the cold. A production of England's Theatre Royal Bath, it's not surprising that Christopher Morahan's direction is impeccable and the supporting actors, Alan Cox and Alex Hassell are perfect in their roles.

It's my belief that English companies do superior work to American companies when producing Pinter. There's something inherently British about Pinter that only English productions do justice to. It was a privilege for American audiences to have this production come to the US.

New Conservatory Theatre Center, **The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later**.

The brutal beating death of gay college student Mathew Shepard in 1998 inspired playwright, director Moises Kaufman to take his theatre company to Laramie, Wyo. to interview everyone willing to speak to them. They did 200+ interviews. In 2000, Kaufman's play, **The Laramie Project**, opened to rave reviews. The actors played the various people interviewed, speaking their words. The portrait of a town split and shocked by the homophobic murder was telling – as was the lack of hate crime laws in most US communities. In 2002 it was made into a film of the same title. Ten years later, Kaufman and his crew returned to Laramie to see what, if anything, had changed. Using the same interview process, he created **The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later**. What had changed was interesting – on one hand

laws regarding hate crimes were being enacted, while on the other Laramie residents had begun to deny the Shepard killing was a hate crime, claiming it wasn't fueled by homophobia, but was a drug deal gone wrong. In part this view was inspired by biased and inaccurate TV coverage on 20/20, but mostly residents didn't want their town seen as a place where homophobia was rampant – somehow that was much worse to them than being seen as a town with drug dealers. While denial that the murder was an anti-gay hate crime is infuriating, the fact that homophobia is that repellant to Laramians may indicate some positive progress in their thinking.

ACT, **Maple and Vine**.

Oh, the terrible stresses of modern life. Oh, to return to a time when life was easier, when people knew their roles and how to play them, when choices were fewer and life was more relaxed. **Maple and Vine** presents the choice to do just that. A harried Manhattan professional couple are given the opportunity to move to a private new community that recreates life in 1955. After a bit of soul searching they decide to do it, and off they go. The play presents a marvelous re-creation of the mid-50's. The food, the clothing, the décor, even the language is genuine 50's. So, unfortunately, are the attitudes. The husband of our newly arrived couple is of Japanese descent and soon discovers there is no protection from the blatant racism that keeps him from promotion at his job. The couple who run the community keep the husband's sexual orientation (he is gay) a deep, deep secret. The play is an entertaining, delightful piece of fluff. The serious issues of life in the 50's are just brushed over, the characters seem not just to accept, but welcome, the prejudices of the time. Only the gay husband doesn't do that – he leaves the community in order to live with his lover. For him, love conquers all. But for the others, the siren's call of the supposed easy life of the 50's outweighs all else. Living life in a split level house at the corner of maple and Vine in 1955 is just so very much better than the stress of living in a hi rise apartment in Manhattan in 2012.

MCT, **Othello, the Moor of Venice**.

This production works hard at being a new, different look at **Othello**. Directors often try to be innovative with their Shakespearean productions. Plays are set

in various time periods, in modern dress, in costume dress, once in a while in no dress at all (nude Shakespeare), done as pop art, done ala the Marx Brothers – the list is endless. But some plays are hard to adapt – the plot doesn't lend itself to tampering – the period is basic to the story, the lead characters can't be tweaked. **Othello** is one of these. So what can a director, (Jasson Minadakis in this case) do to be innovative? Well, the two minor female characters, Emilia (wife to Iago and maid to Desdemona) and Bianca, (girlfriend of Cassio) can be clothed as fighters, carrying swords and knives, even engaging in swordplay along with the men. This interpretation is unsupportable, neither plot nor dialogue suggest this. What else – well we can be reminded that Othello is NOT a Venetian, but is a hired mercenary who is basically a savage, from an uncivilized land. How to do this – well we can use the actor's voice – his breathing, his pronunciation of certain words to make it clear the man is barely civilized. He can't even pronounce his wife's name – in his mouth Desdemona becomes Desdemooooon – the third syllable a long drawn out diphthongal moan – the fourth syllable dropped completely. All that aside, Aldo Billingslea makes a marvelous Othello. He's blessed with an amazing voice and makes the most of it. Sadly, Craig Marker's Iago is literally hard to hear. Marker speaks too fast, runs words together, and drops his voice. Since the entire plot rests on Iago's manipulation of the other characters for his own ends, not being able to hear him is a major problem. To call this production a mixed bag is generous.

Magic Theatre, **Any Given Day**.

This production is two short plays, with a ten minute break between them during which the set is changed. An announcement is made before the play starts that the house lights will not go on during the break – the audience is to stay seated – the break is not an intermission. I suspect there's a good reason for this – after the shambles of the first play the audience might have walked out en masse, and missed the very excellent second play. The first play, set in Scotland, presents a man and woman, both retarded to various degrees, who await the arrival of a guest. They are menaced by someone outside – a rock is thrown through their window. The man leaves to go to the store, a young thug forces his way in, beats, urinates

on, and murders the woman. End of play. The audience has no idea who these two people are, what their relationship is to each other, or why the thug is after them. If one reads the program very carefully it turns out the play is a commentary on what happened after Margaret Thatcher closed the mental hospitals in Britain and provided no outpatient care facilities. Unfortunately, there is no suggestion of this in the play itself. The second play, again two characters, presents a woman (who turns out to be the guest expected in the first play) and her male employer. They are beautifully played by the excellent local actors Stacy Ross and James Carpenter. Their conversation starts out being about the bar they work in, then turns personal – their relationship does the same. These two apparently alienated semi-strangers wind up leaving together, a budding personal relationship in the offing.

Custom Made Theatre Company, **A Bright Room Called Day**.

This early Tony Kushner (Angels in America) play is about the rise of the Nazis in pre war Germany. A political scree at heart, the play consists of short scenes, in which a variety of characters are presented, all of whose lives are impacted by the rising tide of nazi-ism. Some believe that the communists will succeed, others are socialists, some not political at all. All soon realize that closing their eyes to what's happening will not keep them immune to or protected from what's happening around them. This is an excellent production, well directed by Brian Katz, with a talented cast of actors.

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.

Online AAUW Branch

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

2012 International Women’s Day Summit

Co-President Deirdre Araujo represented AAUWSF at the recent Women’s Day Summit. Honorees at the GAE Awards luncheon moderated by Rose Aguilar of KALW included Liesl Gerntholtz, of Human Rights Watch, who spoke of her work in Haiti and of changing the definition of rape in South Africa. Retired Navy Commander Zoe Dunning was 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 by the artist Wanda K. Whitaker.



Liesl Gerntholtz

Rose Aguilar with Deirdre Araujo

Zoe Dunning

May Birthday

Delores Schoen May 8th

Birthday Not Announced?

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

Your Branch Needs You

Bring your enthusiasm and leadership to move our Branch forward. The AAUWSF Nominating Committee is looking forward to hearing from interested members who want to serve on the Board of Directors for 2012/2013. Contact one of our Co-Presidents for details.

AAUWSF Board

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May 2012

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

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy.

Norman Vincent Peale



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.