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www.aauwsf.org

June 2012

President's Message

This has been a great year for our Branch! The quality of candidates for the Silver Jubilee grant was superb and the enthusiasm with which the Tech Trek girls (alumnae and prospects) tackled their assignments was infectious. Thanks to Andrea Laudate and Peggy Kavounas, we've had a series of engaging and well-planned programs in lovely locations (Marina Blvd outshining them all). With constructive feedback from many Branch members, including Fan Kong, Pat Morin, and Lisa Vestal, Susan Kwock's **About Face Community Action Grant** proposal received full funding! Add to that a Washington DC Convention bringing special attention to the potential for replicating Tech Trek across the nation and a California State Convention in our area allowing for branch member participation beyond the Board -- we were most fortunate. Our member losses however, were heart-wrenching. Yet I'm buoyed by Elaine Butler's words: "from finding me cheaper diapers, to pulling the pieces of my life together after Stephen's passing - the Branch has always been there for me". We have much to be thankful for and much yet to accomplish. ONWARD!
Deirdre Araujo, Co-President



Installation Lunch and Scholarship Awards

The 2012/2013 Branch Installation of Officers luncheon and Silver Jubilee Scholarship Awards presentation will be held at **Chabaa Thai Restaurant, 2123 Irving St.** on **Sunday, June 24, 11am – 1pm.** Looking forward to seeing you there!

Membership Social

What a terrific turn out we had of returning and potential new members at the AAUWSF Membership Social on May 20th at the home of Peggy Kavounas! Kathleen Cha, AAUW Director & Martina Castro (producer of KALW Crosscurrents) enlightened and entertained us with a history of AAUWSF and Women and the Media respectively. Check out more details about this great event later in this Avanti.



Kathleen Cha and Martina Castro at the Member Social.

Tech Trek Send-Off

It is time to celebrate now that the money is sent in, the girls chosen and the forms are completed. Everyone in the Branch has been involved in this project so please come and meet the girls and their families. It is happening this **Sunday, June 3rd from 3-5 PM at Sports Basement, 1590 Bryant Street**. Parking can be found on the street or in the small underground garage. Enter the garage off Florida between 16th and Division Street. If you choose to bring some sweets, that's fine with us too. Just come and enjoy!

Elaine Butler & Michelle Mammini
Tech Trek Co-Coordinator.

Tech Trek Science and Math Camps

Several camps hold "Branch Visitation Days". If you are interested in seeing your campers in action, contact your camp's director. Go to aauw-techtrek.org, click on your camp's name at the top, scroll down to find her email. Or ask me. Space is limited so don't delay. This year committees are helping three directors with planning and, while all committee members are doing truly fine jobs, there are a few whom I want to thank loudly and in public: Sonoma: Helga Glasson, staffing; Paula Cornyn, campers.

Stanford Curie: Marji McMillan, staffing; **Elaine Butler, campers.**

Davis: Marygrace Colby, campers; Susan Wheeler and Martha Rees, curriculum.

Tech Trek is a joint project. More than 1,250 members helped in some way this year! Check our website, aauw-techtrek.org, for photos and updates.

Carol Holzgrafe, *State Project Coordinator*, *Tech Trek*, techtrek@aauw-ca.org

Travel Group

June is a hectic month with Tech Trek Send-off, the Installation Luncheon, weddings, graduations and whatnots. We will be on the road again in July. If you have a day trip in mind, let me know. Contact Elaine Butler, elainebutler124@comcast.net or 826-3172.

Afternoon With Books

We are starting the summer with a mystery. Join us on **June 15th at 1:30 PM. Hostess: Joanne Mandel, 12 Marne Ave. SF.** Book: *The Fruit of All Evil*, (a Farmer's Market Mystery) by Paige Shelton
RSVP: Joanne at 665-7329.

International Book Group

The next International Book Group will meet on **Monday, June 18, at the home of Janice Gonsalves, 41 Teresita Blvd., at 7:00 p.m.** We will read *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett about a researcher who disappears in the Amazon jungle. Please **RSVP** to Janice at (415) 759-9760 or email:

janicemarie@pacbell.net.

Mystery/Adventure

Visit Scandinavia with this month's author: **Date: Thursday, June 28th, 7:30 PM Hostess: Sandra Tye, 2960 21st Ave. SF** Book: *Devil's Star* by Jo Nesbo. Reviewer: Jane Hansen. RSVP: Sandra at 566-0587

AAUWSF Silver Jubilee Awards

The Silver Jubilee Scholarship Committee met in May. Twelve very worthy applications were received by the deadline of April 30th. From this group, after much deliberation, **three women were chosen to each receive \$2,000 from the branch Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund** to further their scholastic efforts during the upcoming final year of their academic studies. The selected women attend three different schools. One is studying for an MS at UCSF to become a nurse practitioner. One is seeking an MFA/Certificate in English Composition at SFSU. The third woman is a student at UC Berkeley working for a BS in the joint major of chemical engineering and materials science engineering. The committee faced a big job in selecting our final three. I wish to thank the following SF AAUW members who comprised this year's committee and worked diligently to make these hard choices. The committee members with me were Angie Durso, Elaine Butler, Joanne Mandel, Pat Spencer and Mary Suter. I gratefully acknowledge Angie Durso's hospitality in offering us a meeting place. Our co-president Deidre Araujo also came by to read the applications. **Hopefully the three recipients will be able to attend our installation lunch later in June, meet all of us attending, learn more about AAUW and receive their awards.** Thanks again to everyone who participated in our committee this year. Be sure to come to the luncheon to congratulate the students!

Pat Camarena

Silver Jubilee Committee Chair 2012

Breaking the Barriers

Pat Camarena

In southern Monterey County lies the small town of Lockwood. With less than 400 residents, it is a farming and ranching community. Vineyards grace the nearby hills. One might surmise that this small hamlet was named for early settlers. However, it was named, like two other American towns, for Belva Lockwood, a lady who never set foot in California but had become a great force for social change in the second half of the 18th century. Her efforts in the areas of women's suffrage, equal rights, minority rights, and world peace helped lay the groundwork for those many activists who came after her. As a young widowed mother, she supported her family by teaching. Concurrently she studied law privately under the tutelage of a law school administrator in Washington, D. C. because the school denied her entry due to her sex. She proudly earned her law degree at the age of 43. She had to lobby Congress to pass a law to allow women to be able to practice before the Supreme Court. Belva became the first woman to do so. She was a founder of Washington's first suffrage group. She actively worked to promote world peace organizations attending international conferences and writing essays to draw attention to the need for such organizations. She lobbied Congress to establish an equal pay policy for federal employees. In her fifties, she ran twice for president. When she was 76 years old, she took on a Native American reparation case and won five million dollars in reimbursements for the Cherokee nation. Belva was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Her portrait hangs among those honored in Washington's National Portrait Gallery. In the 1980s, her face appeared on a U.S Postal Service stamp. A WWII liberty ship bore her name. Several ship figureheads were carved in her likeness.

Here is a thought provoking quote from one of Belva's essays: "I do not believe in sex discrimination in literature, law, politics, or trade or that modesty or virtue are more becoming to women than to men, but wish we had more of it."

The effect of Belva's efforts has sifted down to us so many years later.

www.nwhm.org
www.biography.com

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 Corinne Sacks by the 25th of each month via email to: cpsacks@juno.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](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/aauf/home.

US Congressional Voting Record

aaufaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm.

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

Samuel Beckett, Irish playwright, actor, director, Nobel Prize winner, member of the French Resistance in WWII, devotee of Martin Esslin and his theories of Theatre of the Absurd, and devotee also of James Joyce and his stream of consciousness style, now has two plays, **Endgame**, and **Play**, the curtain raiser, on the boards at ACT.

Beckett, best known for **Waiting For Godot**, his most frequently produced play, is an acquired taste. Audiences tend to love him or hate him. This reviewer could easily spend the rest of her theatre-going life happy sans ever seeing another Beckett play. A one word evaluation of every Beckett production, and over a lifetime I've seen many – way too many – boring. So bear in mind that the review which follows is not unbiased.

Play has three characters, WI, M, W2 (Woman 1, Man, Woman 2.) They are entombed in urns, so we see only their heads. Speaking at first all at once, they soon learn to take turns, each speaking a fast, short line as a spotlight hits each face. The women are the wife and lover of the man -- jealous of each other and both angry and lovesick for him. He is mostly tired of the drama and happy to be free of them both. They speak for about seven minutes, the lights go out, then come on again, and the whole thing is repeated. During Intermission, I heard one theatergoer say to his companion, "It was awful enough to sit through once – and then they did it again -- why?" Anyone who is intrigued by this can use the link below to see a video of it on Youtube, featuring the great English actors Kristin Scott-Thomas, Alan Rickman, and Juliet Stevenson.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiEtsVPpjyM>

I did watch it, and even with this amazing cast it was painful to sit through.

FYI – the ACT cast, René Augesen, Anthony Fusco, and Annie Purcell were uniformly excellent, but couldn't save the yawn-producing dialogue.

Endgame, the second play, has four characters. Hamm is well played by the amazing Bill Irwin

(strangely cast since his forte is comic movement and his character in this play is blind and wheelchair-bound,) Clov by Nick Gabriel, and Nagg and Nell by veteran actors Giles Havergal and Barbara Oliver, the latter two in covered garbage bins so we see only their heads, and these only are visible when the lids are opened. The play is a study of the relationship among them – Nagg and Nell, the two in the garbage bins, are the parents of Hamm, who is the father of Clov. Irwin uses his voice, face and arms to great effect to enhance what is of necessity a vocal performance, but his greatest strengths on stage are body and movement, not possible to utilize for this role.

Like so many Beckett plays, it's impossible to empathize with the characters because they are undeveloped, being abstractions on which to hang ideas. Sadly, the audience can't actually understand the ideas – the lines seldom give us interpretable information – they are enigmatic and seemingly unmotivated.

Director Carey Perloff did her best to turn dross to gold, but these plays are so much the product of another time when theatrical experimentation meant it was OK to alienate the audience, that a play need not make sense, that immobilizing actors in wheelchairs, garbage cans, urns, or buried up to their heads in sand (as in **Happy Days**, another Beckett play) was a challenge that the audience should be grateful to rise to – well, those days are over which makes productions like this painful to sit through. Anyone who'd like to read **Endgame** will find the script at the link below.

<http://samuel-beckett.net/endgame.html>

Finally if anyone wonders what Beckett's 1969 Nobel Prize in Literature was for, here is what the Nobel committee wrote: *"for his writing, which - in new forms for the novel and drama - in the destitution of modern man acquires its elevation"*.

Play, Endgame, through June 3. ACT, 415 Geary St.(corner Mason St.)

Tues – Sat 8pm, and Wed, Sat, and Sun 2pm. Box Office 749-2228 Online:

<http://ev12.venue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/EVExecMacro?linkID=act&evm=main>

SF Branch Nominating Committee

The following members have been nominated to serve on the AAUW San Francisco Branch 2012-2013 Board of Directors.

President – Cathy Corcoran
 Secretary – Kelly Joseph
 Treasurer- Kathe Traynor
 EF – Mary Suter
 LAF- Barbara Spencer
 Membership – Nancy Shapiro
 Co-Program- Deirdre Araujo
 Co-Program - Andrea Laudate
 Co-Public Policy – Sheila Bost
 Co-Public Policy – Roberta Guise
 Avanti Editor – Corinne Sacks
 Website – Nancy Shapiro
 Silver Jubilee – Pat Camarena
 Hospitality – Marilyn Leal

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.

Welcome New Members!

Martina Castro
 Marian Shaffner
 Lisa Vestal

Online AAUW Branch

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

May 20th Membership Social Event



Kathleen Cha, Branch Member and AAUW Director, shared some of the great stories and history of the San Francisco Branch of AAUW at the Membership Social Event held on May 20th at Peggy Kavounas' home. A mine of information, Kathleen always succeeds in illustrating the importance of AAUW and the impact of work that its members have done and continue to do, on behalf of women and girls and communities.

Members who paid their yearly dues by May 20th have received an invitation to attend one of the "Schmoozing Events" to be held in June. At each event, SF-AAUW will contribute \$50 to the group's tab.



We were delighted to hear Martina Castro, Managing Editor of KALW News, speak about her career and share some of the great stories she has covered, especially in relation to women and girls. Here is a link to a piece that Martina spoke about at the event: <http://www.kalw.org/post/peek-secret-world-girls>. Martina is an award-winning radio producer and editor based in San Francisco. Before becoming Managing Editor of KALW News, she got her start at National Public Radio in Washington, D.C. where she worked as a producer and trainer. Martina's independent work has been featured nationally on NPR's *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, and *Day to Day*, as well as the online radio magazine *The [Un]Observed*. On KALW's *Crosscurrents*, Martina has produced stories gauging the impact of the recession on the Bay Area, and also has focused on the arts and culture of the Bay. She produced two award-winning series – *The Audiophiles*, which are conversations with creative people working in sound, and *The Fault Lines*, a six part series exploring the roots and solutions to violence in Oakland. Martina was the recipient of the 2010 New Voices scholarship from the Association of Independents in Radio, given to promising minority journalists working in public media. Martina is also co-founder and senior producer of *Radio Ambulante*, a Spanish-language radio podcast that features public radio-style, sound-rich storytelling. Martina got her B.A. at Amherst College in Massachusetts, majoring in Women's and Gender Studies. She was born and raised in Virginia and her family is from Uruguay. In her free time, she is also the lead singer of the local latin/flamenco/reggae band, Makrú.

June Birthdays

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|
| Stephanie | Pincson | June 1 |
| Mary | Graves | June 10 |
| Lucretia | Axtell | June 12 |
| Mary | Suter | June 21 |
| Lois | Tow | June 26 |
| Elena | Portacolone | June 27 |
| Sandra | Tye | June 28 |

Your Branch Needs You

Bring your enthusiasm and leadership to move our Branch forward. If you would like to participate on a Committee this year please contact the Branch President.

Birthday Not Announced?

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

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June 2012

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

Education costs money, but then so does ignorance.

Sir Claus Moser



Avanti Editor

AAUW

San Francisco Branch

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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.