



President's Message

I am honored to serve as the President of the San Francisco Branch of AAUW for 2012-2014. I am thankful to the members in attendance at the Installation Luncheon held on June 24th for electing me and fellow Officers to the Board of Directors. As other branches acknowledge, a focus on membership will call us all to contribute to the ongoing success of AAUWSF, the second oldest branch in the nation. Together with Nancy Shapiro, our Membership VP, I am forming a membership committee to build on the great work done last year by Nancy and our outgoing Presidents, Deirdre Araujo and Barbara Spencer. If you would like to join the committee, or to send us your thoughts and ideas on retaining and recruiting members, please let us know. Pat Camarena, Silver Jubilee Chair, awarded one of three Scholarships to Roberta D'Alois, who gave a heartfelt thank-you speech, reminding us all of the impact AAUW makes in the education of women. Roberta's thoughts are also featured in this issue of *Avanti*.

I had the opportunity to attend the recent Inter Branch Council (IBC) meeting with Barbara Spencer and Andrea Laudate. Held at the lovely home of Jane King in Menlo Park on June 20th, the IBC brings together Branch Presidents from North Peninsula, Half Moon Bay, Menlo/Atherton, San Mateo, Pacifica, San Francisco and San Carlos, to share news of program activities. I was inspired by the wealth of experience in the room and look forward to partnering with our IBC colleagues this year.

AAUW members from several Bay Area Branches attended *An Invisible War*, the documentary on rape in the Military, on June 22nd. Jackie Speier acknowledged the advocacy efforts of AAUW in her remarks before the 7pm showing of the movie. It was great to meet Jackie and some of the survivors in attendance. Check out the review of the event by Barbara Spencer later in this issue.

I want to thank our outgoing Co-Presidents, Deirdre Araujo and Barbara Spencer for their leadership over the past two years and I look forward to a great year ahead for the San Francisco Branch.

Cathy Corcoran
President

Our Silver Jubilee Winners for 2012

On a sunny June Sunday at the Chabaa Restaurant a large SF AAUW contingent gathered to install a new branch board for 2012- 2013. We also got to meet and greet one of our three most worthy Silver Jubilee scholarship winners for this year. We had twelve applicants from nine schools. The committee chose three finalists to each receive \$2,000 to assist them to finish their last year of study. Two of our winners, Jennifer Brodsky and Shuangshuang Chen were out of the country and unable to attend our luncheon. They will receive their awards at a later date. Jennifer Brodsky is working toward a MS from UCSF School of Nursing. A graduate of Brown University, she already has her Master's in Public Health. Her degree from UCSF will enable her to work as a family nurse practitioner in a clinical setting serving the Spanish-speaking in underserved communities in California. Shuangshuang Chen transferred to UC Berkeley from Pasadena City College. She came to the United States after high school from China. It is her goal to ease the financial burden on her hardworking family. Her anticipated degree is a Bachelor of Science in the joint major of chemical engineering and materials science engineering. While in school she has been a teaching assistant, a tutor, and a hospital volunteer. Fortunately, our third scholarship winner, Roberta D'Alois, was able to meet us for lunch today. She is a re-entry grad student at SFSU seeking a MFA/Certificate in English Composition. Roberta is an amazing person, full of energy and creativity with an extensive educational background and a

diverse resume of community service commitments including volunteering at 826 Valencia, the Z Space Theater, and Jump! Theater. Roberta's success will be a great return on AAUW's investment in education for women.

Pat Camarena

Silver Jubilee Committee Chair 2012



Pat Camarena and Roberta D'Alois

Thank You

I was so delighted to attend the June luncheon and meet many of the wonderful members from the San Francisco branch. I am grateful for the generous scholarship and was humbled to find out how many other worthy candidates applied for the Silver Jubilee funds. The scholarship will make it possible for me to continue not just my studies, but also my work with Jump! Theatre, providing mentally ill artists a chance to work with writing teachers and coaches to tell their stories. As part of my award, receiving a San Francisco membership will hopefully permit me to bring some of Jump's writing and story techniques to the branch, and to perhaps to even sponsor other women interested in mentorship for their writing practice. Thanks again for your very generous support.

Roberta D'Alolis



June Installation Luncheon

Tech Trek Report

The Send-off Party was a great success. We had 15 of the 16 girls and their families at Sports Basement. It was nice to see many AAUW members and to enjoy sweet creations brought by campers and members. Many thanks to Pat Camarena, Michelle Mammini, Pat Spencer, Corrine and Mitch Sacks and anyone else who came early to help set up. We were lucky to have the Camp Curie Co-Director, Eileen Hutchinson, as a guest to answer the family questions. There were many questions and Eileen was gracious to stay until everyone felt confident about sending their girls away for a week. Deirdre, her friend, a former Olympian and woman of science also spoke. Pat Camarena gave each girl a bag of camp necessities. Now we will wait until the **Welcome Back on September 9th, 2-5, at Sports Basement.**

Elaine Butler & Michelle Mammini,
Tech Trek Branch Co-Coordinator.

Board Meeting

Welcome to all our new board members. There will be no board meeting in July. The Board retreat will be held on Saturday, August 18 at 10 AM at Cathy Corcaron's home: 3974 18 Street.

International Book Group

International Book Club Discussion will be held on **Monday, July 16th at 7pm** at the home of Nancy Shapiro, 1683 42nd Ave. RSVP to: (415) 731-2654. We will be reading: VOICE OF AMERICA by E. C. Osondu.

Afternoon With Books

Friday, July 20th at 1:30 PM. We are meeting at the home of Marilyn Leal, 4325 19th St (Castro District) - good bus connections at 18th and limited street parking. Carpools are advised.

The group reads books on a variety of genres. This month we are reading: **I Am America (And So Can You!)** by Stephen Colbert.

RSVP: Marilyn at 415-626-4110.

Mystery/Adventure

Thursday, July 26 at 7:30 PM

We are meeting at Corrine Sack's home, 1835 Franklin St. #401. Plan to car pool. For those who do not find street parking, there is limited parking in the building garage. See the doorman.

The book for this month is: **Country of Origin** by, Don Lee.

There is no scheduled reviewer. All the members should bring relevant information to the meeting

RSVP: Corrine 292-4130

Travel Group

Since many of us have travel in the summer, our next trip will be **Saturday, September 22nd**. We will visit the Walt Disney Family Museum in the Presidio. More information will follow.

Travels of an "Orphan Girl" Pat Camerena

Elizabeth was not really an orphan. In fact she came from a large Pennsylvania family. After

reading an article entitled "What Girls Are Good For", in which the writer argued that women were only good for housework and child care, Elizabeth took action. After her letter of protest came to the attention of the newspaper editor, a correspondence developed during which he requested her opinion of what would be suitable articles for publication. Impressed by her answers, he hired her at the age of eighteen. Elizabeth's initial by-line was "Orphan Girl". Later on, her fellow reporters helped her chose a more catchy name for her articles. Inspired by a popular Stephen Foster song, she became "Nellie Bly". Nellie went on to work for the New York World in the days when women journalists were a rarity. She argued for the reform of marriage and divorce laws. She went undercover in a mental institution for ten days. Her subsequent articles caused an outrage among her readers and led to needed reform. She took a job in a Pittsburgh factory to investigate child labor laws, wage inequities, and unsafe working conditions. Briefly she wrote articles from Mexico to bring attention to the poverty and political corruption until the government ordered her to leave the country. Back in New York again Joseph Pulitzer hired her. After reading Jules Verne's book Around the World in Eighty Days, he financed her trip around the world to see if she could complete the journey in less time. A savvy business man he saw her travels as a great publicity stunt. There was a competition among readers to guess the exact time of her return. Reportedly 1,000,000 people entered. Tension was electric. After arriving in San Francisco from Yokohama, a prolonged Sierra snowstorm forced Nellie to take an alternate train route home. In spite of the weather, she arrived in New York in 72 days!!! Incidentally there was another woman reporter named Elizabeth Bisland sponsored by Cosmopolitan trying to make the same trip but in the opposite direction. She became an "also ran" when storms delayed her trans-Atlantic voyage. Another claim to fame for Nellie occurred when she became the first woman to send back news reports from the Eastern Front as WWI began. Her accomplishments won a greater measure of acceptance for women journalists. Nellie refused to let societal expectations determine her lot in life. "Energy rightly applied and directed can accomplish anything". So said Elizabeth Jame

Cochran, aka Nellie Bly. She was an energetic professional woman ahead of her time and not afraid to take chances.

www.pbs.org
www.nellieblyonline.com
www.biography.com

Civil Rights at School

As a member of AAUW's Voices Project, our new branch Public Policy Committee Co-Chair, **Roberta Guise**, is writing position pieces about Title IX. Her first piece -- a letter to the editor -- appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on Monday, June 25. Here is what she wrote.

Saturday marks the 40th anniversary of Title IX, the landmark civil rights legislation that President Richard Nixon signed into law, giving girls the same access to education and athletics as boys.

Most people mistakenly think that Title IX is just about athletics. In fact, Title IX promises to extend equity throughout education, with opportunities for advancement especially in the science, technology, engineering and math fields (also known as STEM subjects).

It's also key to bringing school districts into compliance to try to prevent bullying based on sex and sexual harassment of students, because these acts are considered a form of sex discrimination under Title XI.

Two recent studies from the American Association of University Women - "Why So Few?" and "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School" - illustrate the progress we have yet to make to attract girls to STEM and to keep all students safe from bullying.

So 40 years on, we've come far thanks to Title IX, and we still have a long way to go.

Roberta Guise, San Francisco Chronicle

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

Avanti Articles

Please remember to submit Avanti articles to Corrine Sacks by the 25th of each month via email to: cpsacks@yahoo.com

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.

Playing Now Paula Campbell

American Idiot, now at the SHN Orpheum Theatre is a loud, heartfelt cry of pain by the disaffected youth of "Jingletown, USA", set in "The Recent Past." This rock/pop/punk opera, based on Green Days' platinum album of the same name, premiered in 2004, so the past, illustrated in part by George Bush quotes and photos of Dick Cheney, is no longer quite so recent. Nonetheless, it's absolutely pertinent to 2012

When the curtain went up, and the loud wail of an electric guitar filled the air, and the performers belted out a song whose lyrics were entirely unintelligible to me, I mentally groaned – another too loud, oh so boring rock musical. Boy, was I wrong! **AI** is touching, beautifully performed, and the opposite of boring. The show tells the story of alienated, rage driven teenagers in a small town. Johnny, the main character, sung and danced with deep expression of his angst by Van Hughes, (who also played the role late in the **AI** Broadway run) leaves town with his friend Tunny, (the excellent Scott J. Campbell.) Another friend, Will, (Jake Epstein) plans to go with them, but decides to stay behind when his girlfriend reveals she is pregnant.

None of them find what they are looking for. Johnny becomes deeply involved in the drug scene, meets and falls in love with a girl, Whatsername, (Gabrielle McClinton), who leaves him because of his drug use, Tunny is aroused from lethargy so deep that he's spends all his time in bed obsessed by an ad on TV for the US Army. He enlists, winds up in combat and loses a leg. Will hates life as a husband and father, turns to drink and drugs, and is finally alone when his wife takes their child and leaves him. Eventually the two travelers return home, everyone get together, mourns their losses, but are unable to overcome the rage that fuels the futility that they feel.

Along the way there are some beautiful ballads, wonderful ensemble pieces, all under the skilled musical direction of arranger and orchestrator Tom Kitt, and most of all, amazing choreography, by Steven Hoggett. The characters are teenage kids – they're not supposed to look like professional dancers. The choreography is choppy, sometimes almost spastic – the moves are unusual, not graceful but very real – don't look for an audience pleasing kick line in this show. There is also an amazing aerial dance. Tunney, under heavy sedation after his leg amputation, dreams of "The Extraordinary Girl" (Nicci Claspell) who flies in high above his bed wearing a burkha, which she slowly sheds revealing what can best be described as an "I Dream of Jeannie" costume under it. She pulls Tunney into the air with her, and their long, slow, gorgeous dance in the air is a highlight of the show, absolutely gorgeous, and something I won't forget. Christine Jones set is striking (no pun intended.) The stage walls are covered with video screens on which are projected ads, words, photos, drawings, slogans – enhancing the milieu in which these characters live, surrounded and shaped by popular media. Various metal structures – towers, ladders, which the actors climb, swing off, dance on, move seamlessly on and off the stage, as do pieces of furniture.

AI may not be a show for everyone – but it's definitely worth seeing. There are one or two false bits – the cliché of the pregnant teenage girl, the drug dealer whose moves, costume, and makeup, are much too reminiscent of Sporting Life, in Porgy

and Bess, the overly obvious parallels to **Hair** and the definite influence of **Spring Awakening**, (which was also directed by **AI** director Michael Mayer.) Overall, though it's a great show, and I positively recommend spending a night in Jingtown, USA, and experiencing the lives of the teens who live there.

American Idiot, through July 8. Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market Street, Tues–Sat 8pm, Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm. Online box office <http://bestofbroadway-sf.com/american-idiot-san-francisco> phone 888-746-1799, or at the theatre Tues--Sat noon–8:30, Sun. noon–4.

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.

July Birthdays

Sheila Bost	July 14
Maureen Keenan	July 17
Elaine Butler	July 19

Birthday Not Announced?

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



Cathy Corcoran, President, San Francisco; Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Maura Jones; President, Half Moon Bay

THE INVISIBLE WAR

A number of our branch members attended the showing of the documentary film *The Invisible War* at the AMC Metreon Theater on June 22. Congresswoman Jackie Speier was there and spoke briefly about the need to move forward legislation she and others have sponsored to address the issue of sexual assaults against members of the military. This documentary lays out the problems in stark detail and is hard to watch but so necessary. The women (and men too) described the circumstances of the sexual assaults against them and the military's failure to address the issue or punish the perpetrators. Instead, many of the victims ended up being involuntarily discharged from the military and have been unable to get their injuries addressed by the Veterans Administration. A large part of the problem is that the only recourse the victims' had was to report the assault to their commanding officer who did not want his command tainted with such complaints. Thus, the complaint was generally swept under the rug. In some instances, the perpetrator was the victim's commanding officer!

A number of the victims featured in the documentary became plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed against the Department of Defense seeking changes in the system and damages. The case, *Cioca et al v. Rumsfeld*, is being supported by AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). The U.S District Court granted the Department of Defense's motion to dismiss the case on the ground that members of the armed forces may not sue the military for injuries incurred while serving, including sexual assaults. The ruling is currently on appeal to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. According to the LAF case summary, the plaintiffs are researching and writing a white paper detailing changes and reforms they want the military to make regarding sexual assault and would be willing to drop the suit if the military adopts it.

At the end of the film there was a statement that Defense Secretary Leon Panetta recently viewed the film and thereafter decreed that sexual assault complaints would no longer be reported to the victims commanding officer.

I hope everyone who did not see *The Invisible War* will have an opportunity to do so at some point. The reviews have all been excellent. Jennifer Siebel Newsom was listed as one of the executive producers of the film.

Barbara Spencer, Legal Advocacy Fund Vice President

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July 2012

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

The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them.

Robert Frost



Avanti Editor

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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.