



President's Message

I hosted the AAUW San Francisco Branch Annual Board Retreat on Saturday, August 18. The Retreat was lively and productive: we mapped out monthly program activities for the upcoming year and approved the branch budget. Program Director, Andrea Laudate, will distribute a calendar of activities to all members soon and Treasurer Kathe Traynor will publish details of the approved budget in the Avanti.

The AAUW San Francisco Branch was a sponsor at the recent Women's Equality Day event. Details about the event are featured in this issue.

With the goal to increase the visibility of our branch in San Francisco, Public Policy Co-Chair, Roberta Guise will be very active this year connecting with like organizations. Her outreach efforts on behalf of our branch will focus on building relationships with the top City influencers and policy-makers on women's issues. I look forward to representing our branch by attending the Friends of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women/2012 CEDAW Awards for Women's Human Rights Luncheon with Roberta later this month. Public Policy Co-Chair Sheila Bost will host an election issues event in October. Details will be published in the October Avanti.

Finally, the Board would like to hear from you, our members. Watch out for a short survey that will be emailed out to everyone in the next few weeks. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Cathy Corcoran
President

Title IX

A recent op-ed column in the San Francisco Chronicle (8/17/12) lauded the U.S. Women's performance at the Olympics and the impact of Title IX on it. The authors, Laila Ali, president, and Kathryn Olson, CEO, of the Women's Sports Foundation termed it the Year of the Woman and

attributed the results to the passage of Title IX forty years ago. If the American women's medals had been counted as a separate country, they would have been ranked third in the total medal count among nations. They noted that viewership of the Olympics by teenage American girls was up a whopping 54 percent. The women's performance gave us new role models and the hope that the new adage will be "strong is the new pretty."

The authors observe that by age 14, girls drop out of sports at twice the rate of boys despite Title IX's mandate of equal opportunity. We should care because in the United States it is estimated that 80 percent of our female executives participated actively in sports earlier in their lives. "Sports, at its best, is a metaphor for life and a teaching ground for teamwork, leadership, coping with winning and losing, and pursuing one's personal best." (Ali and Olson.)

AAUW supported the legislation to enact Title IX and continues to defend it and to support litigation asserting violations of Title's IX's mandate.

Barbara Spencer, Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)
Vice-President

Tech Trek – Welcome Back!

Sunday Morning, **September 9th at 10:30 AM**, we will be welcoming all 2012 Tech Trek Girls, all SF AAUW Branch members and any prospective members. We will hear from each girl about her experiences at Tech Trek Math/Science Camp for Girls. We encourage them to bring some project or photos from camp. RSVP Elaine Butler - 826-3172.

Event: Welcome Back Brunch (potluck permissible but not necessary)

Location: Sports Basement, Grotto Room, 1590 Bryant St. Parking is available in their underground garage off Florida St. between 16th and Division St.

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

Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 12th, 6:30 p.m., for potluck with meeting starting at 7 p.m., at **Marilyn's Leal's home, 4325 19th Street. All members are invited. RSVP Marilyn at 626-4110.**

Public Policy

SF Commission on the Status of Women

At the August meeting, the main agenda item was the Commission's vote on whether to recommend to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors that Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi be permanently removed from his elected position, due to his arrest and conviction of a misdemeanor (for false imprisonment) earlier this year, after he bruised his wife's arm. Mirkarimi had been sentenced to three years' probation and ordered to attend weekly domestic violence intervention classes for batterers. The commissioners voted 5-2 to recommend that the Supervisors remove Mirkarimi from his position as sheriff.

5th Conference on Women (5WCW)

At its monthly meeting, the steering committee on bringing the Conference to San Francisco discussed how the election cycle has put the Conference on politicians' back burner.

We're awaiting a draft position statement from the Department on the Status of Women about key aspects of a 5th Conference (the Department heads the steering committee). When we get the draft position statement, I'll post it in Avanti.

Upcoming Meetings

San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women: 4th Wednesdays, 5-7pm, City Hall, Room 408. Next Commission meeting: Wednesday, September 26, 2012

AAUW Voices Project voter op-ed campaign

Do you have opinions? Of course you do! And that's all it takes to become an op-ed writer for AAUW. Op-eds are opinion pieces that appear "opposite" the "editorial" page in a print newspaper. In publications they're referred to as Opinions. An opinion piece can be essay length, or a shorter letter to the editor.

AAUW's current op-ed campaign ties in to national's "It's My Vote" campaign, that aims to get everyone voting -- especially young women -- and to get people educated on the issues they're voting on.

Email me if you missed Cathy's call for writers, or if you've decided you'd like to give it a try and need more info: roberta@guisemarketing.com

If you're still unsure, consider this: women make up 50% of the population, but barely 15% of voices nationwide. Women's voices need to be included so that they start to shape policy that affects all women, families and children. I hope one of those voices will be yours!

Roberta Guise

Co-Chair Public Policy Committee

Voter Registration Events

This fall, the San Carlos Branch is conducting voter registration events at Canada College, Notra Dame de Namur and the Belmont Library. It is part of a national AAUW effort to register young women to vote and inform them about issues important to women that are at stake in the November 6 election (e.g., reproductive health education, pay equity and access to affordable, quality health care.) E-mail or phone Elva Carle, project coordinator at edcarle@att.net or at (650) 365-8196.

Canada College-Wednesday Sept.5 or Tuesday Sept. 18, 9:00am to 11:30am 11:30am to 2:00pm

Belmont Library Saturday Sept. 22 or Sunday 23

12:30pm to 3:00pm 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Notra Dame de Namur University Thursday Oct.4 or Tuesday Oct.9 11:00am to 1:00pm 1:00pm to 2:30pm.

International Dinner

Twenty four members and their guests enjoyed traditional Italian four-course dinners on August 24, 2012 at the Gold Mirror Restaurant on Taraval Street. The meal was extra nice because we were served in a private banquet room. The dinners are a great opportunity for members to get together and Nancy and Sheila have received requests to host another one before Christmas. Watch this space.

International Book Group

International Book Club will be held on **Monday, September 17th at 7pm** at the home of Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona. RSVP to: (415) 664-4985. We will be reading: **COCKTAIL HOUR UNDER THE TREE** by Alexandra Fuller.

Afternoon With Books

Friday, September 21, 1:30-3 PM

This is the meeting that we need everyone to attend. It is time to pick the next books and hostesses. Look for books that are well-written, lend themselves to discussion and are readily available at the library or a current paperback. We also feel that you should have read the book before recommending it. If you would like to be a group member but cannot attend, call or email your suggestions to our hostess.

Location: Michelle Mammini, 2520 Greenwich St. SF
RSVP: Michelle at 346-9114 or email MMammini@pacbell.net

Travel Group

Mark your calendar for a trip to the Disney Family Museum in the Presidio on Saturday, **September 22**. They are showing "Old Yellar" and having a special talk at 3 PM: **Old Yellar** – Conversation with **Ron Miller and Kevin Corcoran**.

Admission is \$20 adults, \$15 seniors with an additional fee for the talk.

I always wondered what happened to the cute actor "Moochie". RSVP: Elaine 826-3172 or elainebutler124@comcast.net

Mystery/Adventure

SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING, Thursday, September 27, 7:30 PM

It is time to choose our books and meeting places for 2012-2013. Please bring suggestions of books you have read. Be sure to check if they are in paperback or readily available at the public library. We are seeking well-written mystery or adventure books that lend themselves to a lively discussion. If unable to attend, call or email your suggestions to Elaine Butler, elainebutler124@comcast.net

Location: Angie Durso's home, 2 Parkridge #9, SF. RSVP: Angie at 826-5941.

Living Life Well

Pat Camerena

I recently ran across a small book of insightful nuggets of life advice - quotes of one or two sentences expressing practical words of wisdom. For example, here is one for free. Oprah Winfrey: "Always be the only person who can sign your checks." Pretty good advice! See if you can match up the pithy jewels to live by to the well known person who voiced each...all women!!! Answers will be printed somewhere else in this month's Avanti. A small hint: Here are the names of the dozen women whose quotes can be seen below: 1. Barbara Kingsolver (writer), 2. Mother Theresa (social justice advocate), 3. Mia Farrow (actress), 4. Erica Jong (writer), 5. Julia Child (chef), 6. Vivianne Westwood (fashion designer), 7. Katherine Hepburn (actress), 8. Elsa Maxwell (socialite), 9. Janice Joplin (singer), 10. Margot Fonteyn (dancer), 11. Ann Landers (columnist) and 12. Betty White (actress-animal activist). *Enjoy.*

- a. "Quit smoking, and observe posted speed limits. This will improve your odds of getting old enough to be wise."
- b. "The one important thing I have learned over the years is the difference between taking one's work seriously and taking one's self seriously. The first is imperative and the second is disastrous."
- c. Find things that shine and move toward them."
- d. Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful."
- e. "What you spend years growing may be destroyed overnight; build it anyway."
- f. "Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got."
- g. "Get rid of those terrible jeans that everybody else wears. And wear something different for a change, so you don't just look like a clone."
- h. "If you always do what interests you, at least one person is pleased."
- i. "If you don't risk anything, you risk even more."
- J. "If you're alone in the kitchen and you drop the lamb, you can always just pick it up. Who's going to know?"
- k. "Laugh at yourself first before anyone else can."
- l. "Keep the other person's well-being in mind when you feel an attack of soul-purging truth coming on."

Here's the name of the book; there are hundreds more words to the wise inside! **Dance First. Think Later.** Authors are **Katheryn & Ross Petras, Workman Publishing (2010).**

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

Good days, bad days at the theatre. Just had one of each.

Let's start with a good day – or should I say a superb day! SFPlayhouse has done it again, another huge hit, with a joyous, rollicking production of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's **My Fair Lady**. I can't say enough about this great show. Suffice that I saw it when it opened on Broadway in 1956, loved it, got the cast album, and didn't believe it could ever be done that well again. That it can be done that well, or even better, is amply demonstrated in this marvelous production. The acting, singing, dancing, set, lighting, costumes, sound – everything is top drawer. The feeling in the house was electric. At the curtain call the audience rose to its feet, en masse, cheering wildly.

To single out the terrific performers is difficult; they are all amazing, but special notice must be paid to Charles Dean, whose performance as Alfred Doolittle brought down the house, and in my mind certainly matched or overtook that of the famous Stanley Holloway who originated the role in 1956. An especially interesting aspect of the show is the casting of a young, attractive, sexy actor as Henry Higgins. It's become tradition to cast an older actor like Rex Harrison, who originated the role. This pretty well eliminated any sexual attraction/heat between Higgins and Eliza. Casting a younger actor changes the dynamic and clarifies the relationship (always ambiguous in prior productions) between the two main characters. Under the direction of SFPlayhouse co-founder Bill English, this **My Fair Lady** sets the bar for a truly joyous night at the theatre.

DO NOT MISS THIS SHOW!!!

Afterthought – it's now over a week since I saw the show – and every time I think of it I smile and my heart feels happy.

My Fair Lady, extended through Sept.29. The SF Playhouse, 533 Sutter St.

**Box Office 677-9596, tickets@sfplayhouse.org
Tues, Wed, Thurs 7pm, Fri – Saturday 8pm, and Saturday 3pm.**

Now for a not very good day, let's take a brief look at Annie Baker's **Circle Mirror Transformation**, playing at the Marin Theatre Company. This is a two hour play, played sans intermission. Why no intermission one asks – well maybe for fear most of the audience wouldn't return if given a chance to escape. The play is set in an acting class, with the students playing various acting games, many of which are encounter games from the 60's. The games are slow – the first game has our five actors lying on the floor in semi-darkness. Long silence, then one of them says "One" – long pause till someone else says "Two" – etc., until two voices speak a number in unison, and the teacher says "Start again" and so they do -- several times – starting over and over, with long painful pauses, till mercifully there's a total blackout and when the lights come up we're in the next scene. As the characters play the various games, and in the breaks between the games, we learn about each of the five. Sadly, the games are slow, slow, slow, and the dialogue brief, brief, brief. We don't hear very many complete thoughts, or even complete sentences.

The play is reminiscent of Baker's earlier **Aliens** with its long pauses and lack of coherent dialogue, but the characters in *Aliens* are spaced out druggies, for whom this halting communication is normal. The characters in **Circle...** are not druggies – they are ordinary people, and it is just the author's device to present their communication in this slow, far from ordinary way. It's a gimmick – a clever gimmick to be sure, but it makes sitting through the play almost as uncomfortable for the audience as communicating seems to be for the characters.

I'm beginning to think we need a rule about performance length and intermission. Notably, any play over ninety minutes that has no intermission needs to be examined carefully before purchasing tickets. Is the lack of an intermission due to the internal structure and continuity of the play, or is it a clever ploy to make sure the audience is kept captive and can't leave until the play is over?

Mirror Circle Transformation, through Sept 2. Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley. Tix Email: boxoffice@marintheatre.org call 388-5208 Tues– Sat 8pm, and Sat, Sun 2pm.

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.

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.

Living Life Well**Answers here:**

1=A
2=E
3=C
4=l
5=j
6=g
7=H
8=k
9=f
10=b
11=D
12=l

Of Interest This Month**Thursday, September 9**

From Creek Dams to Cormorants--a Modern Ecology of San Francisco Bay.

Ariel Rubissow Okamoto and Kathleen M. Wong discuss the natural and human forces that have shaped California's largest estuary, from the bay's stealthy currents to the developers and environmentalists who have altered its shores. Longtime local science writers, Okamoto and Wong are the authors of *Natural History of San Francisco Bay* (2011), part of the California Natural History Guides series published by the University of California Press.

[Randall Museum](#) Theater, 199 Museum Way, San Francisco CA 94114. 7:30-9 pm. For more information, go to www.sfns.org or contact Patrick Schlemmer at JKodiak@earthlink.net or (415) 225-3830. Free and open to everyone.

Online AAUW Branch

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

September Birthdays

Nada Mayo	September 2
Danielle Joseph	September 3
Barbara Spencer	September 11
Linda Chapman	September 16
Mary Worth	September 18
Jill Fenton	September 20
Janice Gonsalves	September 24
Kathy Traynor	September 24
Mardi Kildebeck	September 25
Jane Hansen	September 30

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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September 2012

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

Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.
Chinese Proverb

Women's Equality Day Event "Call to Action on Voter Rights and Responsibilities"

Kathleen Cha, AAUW Director and San Francisco Branch member, Roberta Guise, AAUWSF Co-Chair Public Policy, Barbara Spencer, AAUWSF LAF VP and I were delighted to represent the Branch and participate in what was an all day event hosted by Rose Aguilar, host of *Your Talk Radio* on KALW 91.7 FM. The event, a call to action on voter rights and responsibilities, was held on Sunday, August 26, 2012 at the African American Art and Culture Complex. The San Francisco Branch of AAUW was honored to be a co-sponsor along with Women's Intercultural Network (WIN), California Women's Agenda (CAWA), CA NOW, the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, Filipina Women's Network, the Center for Collaborative Planning, Southwest Airlines, and other partners. We had a table where we shared AAUW pamphlets on programs, including the national campaign to get women out to the polls in November, "It's my vote I will be heard", national and state public policy details and membership information.



Roberta Guise, Barbara Spencer, Cathy Corcoran, and Kathleen Cha

The panelists, including Tiffany Mok, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Marily Mondejar, Filipina Women's Network, shared their thoughts on voters' rights, suppression challenges, and other barriers emerging during this election year here in California and elsewhere. After lunch and an awards ceremony, Rose Aguilar conducted a special skill-building session entitled "Women, Speak Out! Use Your Voice." The workshop provided tools for women seeking to have their voice heard in the media on issues that matter to them and their communities.



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.