



President's Message

I attended the Inter Branch Council meeting with Program Director, Andrea Laudate, on October 17, held at the home of Valerie Lambertson of the North Peninsula Branch. AAUW CA Director, Virginia Beck was in attendance and asked all Branch representatives to respond to a Leadership Development Survey to provide feedback for the State organization. The IBC members shared success stories on their get out the vote efforts, as part of the nationwide *AAUW It's my vote I will be heard* campaign. I later learned that thanks to all the efforts by local AAUW branches, California registered the most voters, second only to Illinois.

The IBC meeting, held three times a year, is a great way for branches to keep up to date on happenings nearby, and to share best practices in programming and promoting the AAUW mission.

Did you know the San Francisco Branch has a Facebook page? If you are a Facebook user, visit our page, check out the regular postings of articles of interest and of course Like us! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/AAUW-San-Francisco/118625798168?v=wall&ref=nf>

Thank you to the branch members who have already responded to our short survey. We will announce the winner of the free membership for a friend in the December issue of Avanti.

Cathy Corcoran

President

Tech Trek Report

The celebration of 2011-12 Camps is over and it is time to begin fundraising and planning for next

summer's campers. We have signed up for 15 girls again this year. We did it last year and will try again for 15. The cost has gone up to \$900, another \$50 a girl. If we do not raise enough money to fill the spaces, we can give some of the spaces back. Below is the donation form and note that any amount is welcomed. Just be sure to make the check out as indicated on the form. Pledges are wonderful too as we have until March 1, 2013 to send in the money. So think about it - you will be seeing this form monthly until March 1st. Thank you.

2012-13 Tech Trek Donation Form

I'm interested in sponsoring girls to go to Tech Trek 2012! I pledge the following amount towards sending girls to camp.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$900 (1 girl) \$_____

Make checks payable to **AAUW-CA SPF**, with Tech Trek SF in the memo line.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail your donation addressed to:
Elaine Butler & Michelle Mammini 124 Amber Dr.,
SF. , CA 94131-1626;
Elainebutler124@comcast.net

Elaine Butler & Michelle Mammini - Tech Trek San Francisco Branch Co-coordinators

Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 13th

at 6:30 p.m. for potluck with meeting at 7 p.m. at

Marilyn Leal's home:

4325 19th Street.

All members are invited.

RSVP: Marilyn at 626-4110

International Book Group

Monday, November 19, 7PM

Book: *The Book of Salt. A look into the lives of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, as seen through the eyes of their Vietnamese cook.*

Author: Monique Truong

Hostess: Sheila Bost

19 Wawona St.

RSVP: Sheila at wawonast@earthlink.net or (415) 664-4985.

Afternoon With Books

Friday, November 16, 1:30-3 PM

Book: *Gentlemen and Players*

Author: Joanne Harris

Hostess: Stephanie Pincson

1845 Leavenworth St. #201

RSVP: Stephanie at (415) 474-3439

Mystery/Adventure

Thursday, November 29, 7:30 – Note the later date!

Book: *August Heat* by Andrea Camilleri

Reviewer: Pat Camarena

Hostess: Elaine Butler, 124 Amber Drive

RSVP: Elaine at 826-3172

Travel Group

Adrienne Kristine, a returning AAUW member and former Walking Section Chairperson has agreed to help me find those hidden treasures of San Francisco. She doesn't have a car and I don't enjoy driving so the first trips will be local. We were not able to go to the Disney Museum last month and

will plan to go in January. I've heard so many good comments about the museum and can't wait to check it out. Consider joining us in the new year.

Elaine Butler and Adrienne Kristine

I'm Listening Pat Camarena

Belle began to make her memorable mark on the history of our country when she was still in her teens. Despite strong evidence to the contrary, the image of the helplessly passive Southern belle has been a favorite fixture of American mythology. Belle defied this image. Confederate women like Belle left a good deal of information showing that women's Civil War roles to have been anything but passive. Many women toiled as nurses on battle grounds and in make-shift hospitals, raised money to fund their armies and defended their homes from marauding soldiers while doing without many of the necessities of life because of blockades and the destruction of their homes. Belle was not a nurse or money raiser but she was a superb listener. As a young girl in western Virginia, this daring and intelligent young woman used a carefully crafted image as a Southern belle to charm Union soldiers into giving her information helpful to the South. Although briefly arrested and jailed on many occasions, and even banished to Canada, Belle defied those in charge of the prisons and managed to get both guards and inmates to ignore their orders. Although she did serve some brief jail time, often she was let off with just a reprimand. Racing on horseback she relayed valuable information to such generals as Stonewall Jackson. Dressing fashionably and being young and pretty, she put soldiers at ease. When she was 18, she ran through the picket lines with valuable information regarding troop movements as Union soldiers shot at her. In spite of dodging artillery fire, she was not injured. She succeeded in passing information on to Stonewall Jackson so he could rout the outnumbered retreating Union forces. Surprisingly two of her three husbands were Union soldiers. Later in life she supported herself by performing stage shows all over the country telling of her Civil

War experiences. Never one to shun the spotlight she gladly did the lecture circuit to promote her memoirs. She even lived briefly in California. Well educated for a woman of her time, her greatest ability seems to have been her outstanding listening skills. Intelligence and cunning were necessary traits for spies. Good looks and feminine wiles also played a large part in espionage efforts... Belle's included. Ingenuity and a cool head were also valuable characteristics. Maria Isabella Boyd, better known as Belle. had more than a fair share of these qualities.

www.civilwar.netfirms.com

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

Two reviews today – **Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson** and **An Iliad**.

While not a big fan of rock musicals, I was thrilled by **Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson**, now playing at the gorgeous, spacious new home of the San Francisco Playhouse.

Let's talk first about the new theatre. San Francisco Playhouse has moved from its small quarters on Sutter Street, to the theatre at 450 Post St, in the Kensington Park Hotel, former home of Theatre on the Square, later named Post Street Theatre. The

move doubles Playhouse seating capacity to 250, and, I say with a relieved sigh, the rest rooms have more than doubled in seating capacity. The theatre is the former home of the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, with whom the Playhouse will co-produce two shows this season, including **Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson**.

The new theatre is glorious – high ceilinged, airy, with a full balcony. The first six rows of the orchestra have been removed, making the theatre much more intimate and greatly improving audience sight lines. The lobby is large and comfortable, and best of all, there are two large, reliable elevators to carry the audience to the second floor theatre.

Now let's take a look at the show. It opened in 2010 at the Public Theatre in NYC, to rave reviews. It takes a long, hard cynical look at Jackson, America's first "populist" President. Like any good rock musical, the San Francisco Playhouse production has a steel cage and ladder set. It's the kind of set normally used by house and touring companies in large Broadway type theatres – and it is hats off to the Playhouse and set designer Nina Ball for creating this amazing structural steel playing arena. Alex Timbers' book, Michael Friedman's music, and Jon Tracy's direction make this show memorable, thought provoking (how many rock musicals can say that?) and just plain rollicking fun. The actors are young, vibrant, profane, angry and often very funny indeed. Their energy is through the roof, as is their talent.

As we see the rise of Andrew Jackson from his grass roots beginning, then taking on the elite Washington establishment it's hard not to think of the election politics happening now. **Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson** is well worth seeing. It's the first rock musical whose sung lyrics I could actually understand, which didn't play at a volume that damaged my hearing, and which painlessly taught me a lot about a period in our history of which I'd been blissfully unaware.

Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, through Nov 24. Tues-Wed-Thurs 7pm Fri/Sat 8pm, and Sat 3pm. 450 Post Street (2nd Floor of Kensington Park

Hotel) between Mason and Powell, Box Office 415.677.9596 fax: 415.677.9597 sfplayhouse.org

An Iliad, now at the Berkeley Rep is a breathtakingly beautiful, bone searing, heart wrenching theatrical production. This is unquestionably the most impressive one person show I've ever seen. It's a must see!

Ostensibly the telling of the Iliad, the story of the Trojan War, the play is much much more than that. The story is told by Homer, its author, played by the amazing actor, Henry Woronicz, who is accompanied by the bassist, Brian Ellingsen.

We are both in Troy with Homer, and in the present with him as well. The language is both Homer's and the language of today – the horrors of Troy are compared with the horrors of, say, Sarajevo or Botswana or other places where recent wars have destroyed cultures, cities and civilizations. Woronicz is Homer, the storyteller – occasionally actually telling it in Ancient Greek, the language in which it was written (I remembered my Classics professor, reading lines to the class in Ancient Greek, just to give us an idea of how it originally sounded, a taste of what it must have been like) -- he is the fierce, raging, roaring Achilles, slaying every Trojan in sight to avenge the death of his friend, he is the soft spoken Andromache, wife of Hector, refusing to believe that he is dead, he is the 80 year old Priam, king of Troy, begging Achilles to release Hector's body to him for burial. He is everyman touched by war, he is all of us.

Brian Ellingsen's double bass creates sounds I've never before heard from a bass. Sounds of drums, woodwinds, cymbals, sounds of marching men and cheering, jeering crowds, sounds of sorrow, jubilation, exhaustion, death.

Dennis O'Hare, co-adaptor, and Lisa Peterson, co-adaptor and director, have woven a tale so compelling that time seems to stand still. The play is one hour 40 minutes, without an intermission. I could barely believe it was over when the stage went dark – how could so much time have passed so quickly?

A joint production of Berkeley Rep and the La Jolla Playhouse, **An Iliad** has garnered rave reviews in

New York, San Diego, Dallas and other cities. This is a chance to see something unusual in theatre – a tour de force performance of a script both ancient and new – a story for all times and all peoples.

An Iliad, through Nov.18. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley
Tues – Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm, Sat., Sun, 2pm. Box office: 510 647-2949, <http://www.berkeleyrep.org>
Use the promo code **TROY** to save 50% on any performance November 6–11. Online orders only, subject to availability, not retroactive. Discount cannot be combined with any others.

November Birthdays

Priscilla Kelly	November 5
Sherry Bridygham	November 8
Lyudmila Shapovlov	November 15
Anna Yang	November 19
Kathleen Cha	November 22
Andrea Laudate	November 26
Marian Casey	November 28
Kelly Joseph	November 29

Birthday Not Announced?

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

Welcome New Members!

Robin Brasso
Alice Brown O'Connor
Kathleen Kennedy
Marilyn Lindsey
Lois Roberts
Kim Turner

Public Policy Notes

For the past few months I've been attending steering committee meetings of a group whose goal has been to bring the 5th World Conference on Women ("5WCW") to San Francisco. In early October, Marilyn Fowler, a long time women's rights activist and President and CEO of San Francisco-based Women's Intercultural Network (WIN, a non-governmental organization/NGO), and Aimee Allison, Media and Community Relations, San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, traveled to New York to deepen ties with East coast influencers and decision-makers around a future global conference on women.

The two women met with leaders of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the UN NGO/CSW (Commission on the Status of Women), UN Women, and other heads of NGOs, U.S. administration, and potential funders. As the basis for discussion on a future world conference on women, Fowler presented a Position Statement on WIN's letterhead as the NGO Consultative to the UN, jointly drafted with San Francisco Department on the Status of Women.

Fowler and Allison reported receiving feedback that centered on the use of the term "5WCW," a keyword that raises a red flag for women in fundamentalist countries, countries involved in the Arab Spring, and Catholic, Muslim and other conflict areas. These women have expressed concern that they could lose their rights if a 5WCW is convened and the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action is opened for amendment.

Also discussed was the need to spark a U.S. women's movement and reboot a U.S. women's agenda in preparation for a Beijing+20 celebration and a UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Conference in 2015. The thinking was that if the U.S. women's community isn't organized to pressure the federal government to support women's agendas and conferences, there probably won't be any. As part of this goal, Fowler and Allison reached out to the Ford Foundation for funding to

grow the US women's movement and agenda, and to convene a U.S. Women's Summit in San Francisco.

I'll continue to provide updates as they evolve.

Roberta Guise

Co-chair, AAUW-SF Public Policy Committee

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, 1331 Garden Hwy, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833.

Online AAUW Branch

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

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/aauw/home.

US Congressional Voting Record

aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm

Status of Women

On October 24, Cathy Corcoran and Michelle Mammini attended the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. At the meeting, Congresswoman Jackie Spear was recognized for her work on behalf of women veterans. The Commission also recognized the Center for Young Women's Development on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Cheyenne Bell Leadership awards. The courage of 14 year old Malala Yousafzai was recognized during the Inaugural International Day of the Girl celebration on October 11. The Commission accepted a \$650,000 grant from the Department of Justice office of Violence Against Women, to carry out "the SF community informed domestic violence risk assessment project" from 10-1-12 to 9-30-14. A gender analysis of SF commission appointments was presented by a USF Master's student. She compared the cultural and gender equity from 1994 to 2011. A presentation was made by the Trust Women Silver Ribbon Campaign on plans for commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. There will be an online march and open petition, and a Celebration of Women and Life and Liberty in SF. It will be on January 26, 2013, from 10 to Noon, at Justin Herman Plaza.

AAUW California Fellows

Cathy Corcoran, Elaine Butler, Mary Suter, and I attended the AAUW California Fellows Luncheon in Napa on October 21. It was a lovely fall day to be in the wine country, a delicious lunch, and a good turnout.

AAUW has been awarding educational fellowships for 125 years. AAUW raised money in 1919 to purchase one gram of radium for Marie Curie to conduct experiments that helped create the field of nuclear chemistry. The luncheon program featured a photo of Madame Curie on the cover.

There are 42 AAUW Funds Fellows and Grant Recipients studying at California colleges and universities or doing projects in our communities during 2012-2013. Indeed, our branch partnered

with About Face Media Advocacy Project to receive a community action grant for this year. At the luncheon we heard from a number of fellows about their projects. In addition to receiving much needed financial support, the fellows expressed gratitude for the prestige accompanying the awards. One of the speakers suggested that the AAUW fellowship gave her an extra boost in applying for college teaching positions.

It was good to put faces and names to our AAUW Funds contributions.

Barbara Spencer, Legal Advocacy Fund Vice-President

Autumn Gem

The members of the San Francisco AAUW are invited to a free screening of "AUTUMN GEM: A Documentary on Modern China's First Feminist" on **Saturday, November 17 at 11:00am** at the Chinese Culture Center. The event is in conjunction with the Center's current exhibit on feminist and gender identity in China, WOMEN我們.

AUTUMN GEM explores the extraordinary life of the "Chinese Joan of Arc" Qiu Jin (1875 - 1907), a radical women's rights activist who defied tradition to become the leader of a revolutionary army. Qiu Jin spoke out against footbinding and other oppressive practices and demanded equal opportunities for women. She attempted an armed uprising against the corrupt Qing Dynasty and became the first female martyr for China's 1911 Revolution. Qiu Jin is celebrated as a national heroine today.

The hour-long film was produced and directed by two San Francisco Bay Area Chinese American filmmakers, Rae Chang and Adam Tow. It has screened at over 120 schools and educational venues, including Stanford University, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, Princeton, Brown, University of Maryland, and Tribeca Film Center in New York. We've also co-sponsored events with AAUW branches in San Jose, Morgan Hill, and Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek, which were very successful and well-received.

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November 2012

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

If you rest, you rust.
Helen Hayes



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, philanthropy, 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.