



A monthly publication of AAUW, San Francisco, est. in 1886

[www.aauwsf.org](http://www.aauwsf.org)

December 2012

## President's Message

The San Francisco Branch of AAUW has a long and proud tradition of working for the empowerment of women and girls in the city. One of our goals this year is to continue this work with like organizations and connect in productive ways to move our missions forward. Recently, Deirdre Araujo, past President, represented our Branch on a panel that included SAGE, Alliance for Girls and the Family Services Agency to learn how to identify and support girls at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation. You can learn more about the Alliance for Girls organization by visiting their website:

<http://www.alliance4girls.org/about-us/>



As 2012 winds down, we look forward to our Annual Holiday Luncheon, which will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> at Mescolanza Restaurant. Hope to see you there.

'Tis the season of giving thanks and thinking about friends and family who help us in life, through the good times and the tough times. I want to take a moment to thank my fellow AAUWSF board members who volunteer their time for this great organization to ensure that it has a strong and vital future. I have learned much from board members over the years and I continue to tap into their vast knowledge and expertise as I settle into my role as President. Thank you current and past board members, I appreciate everything that you do.

Happy Holidays everyone!

Cathy Corcoran  
President



## Holiday Luncheon

**Sunday, December 16, 2012, 11:00 am**

Mescolanza Restaurant, 2221 Clement Street.

You should have received your invitation in the mail with details regarding menu choices. RSVP with check to AAUW-SF and entree choice to Nancy Shapiro 1683 42nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122 or call 415-731-2654.

## Member Survey

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Branch email survey. Your feedback will help us to grow as a branch and plan future programming. Congratulations to Aysha Handley who has won a free membership for a friend to AAUW!

## Facebook

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>

## Before the Bridge: Sight and Sound at the Golden Gate

### Board Meeting

The final meeting of 2012 will be held on **Wednesday, December 12th, 6:30 p.m., for potluck, with meeting at 7 p.m.**, at Marilyn's Leal's home, 4325 19th Street. All members are invited. RSVP Marilyn at 626-4110.

### International Book Group

There is no meeting scheduled for December. The next meeting will be held on **January 21, 2013.**

### Afternoon With Books

**Friday, December 21, 1:30-3PM**

Hostess: Michelle Mammini, 2520 Greenwich St  
Book/Author: *The Language of Flowers*,  
by Vanessa Diffenbaugh  
RSVP: Michelle @ 346-9114

### Mystery/Adventure

**Thursday, December 20th (3rd Thurs) @ 6:30 PM**

Hostess: Andrea Laudate, 243 Missouri St.  
Book/Author: *Lost and Fondue*, by Avery Aames  
Reviewer: Everyone  
RSVP: Andrea @ 864-6789

### Travel Group

**The Travel Group will be meeting at 11 AM on Saturday, December 15 to see this exhibit.**

Please RSVP to: [elainebutler124@comcast.net](mailto:elainebutler124@comcast.net)  
or [Adrienne.kristine@gmail.com](mailto:Adrienne.kristine@gmail.com) so we will be able to look for you when you arrive.



**103 Montgomery Street, next to the Main Parade Ground at the Presidio**

The newly rehabilitated Montgomery Street Barracks is the setting for a sensory experience of the Golden Gate Strait. Come experience images and sounds of this area before the iconic bridge was imagined. This exhibit surveys the dramatic geology, dangerous waters, ships, shipwrecks, lighthouses, art, and poetry related to the Golden Gate Strait. It also explores the military installations that guarded it and are now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Rarely seen images, maps, and paintings are complemented by sounds of the ocean, foghorns, and sailors.

Gallery I traces the history of the magnificent Golden Gate Strait with tales of ships, lighthouses, foghorns, and shipwrecks. Gallery II explores two centuries of harbor defense, the impact of the Golden Gate Bridge on the Presidio, and the earliest vision of a national park at the Gate. Visitors can also complete an interactive scavenger hunt and attend evening programs that complement the exhibit.

Download the [Exhibit Manual](#), written by Curator Dr. Randolph Delehanty. To see selected video clips featured in the exhibit, visit the exhibit page.

**Elaine Butler and Adrienne Kristine**

## Tenderloin Tessie Pat Camarena

Amplly built blonde Tessie was the most renowned and classy of the upper Tenderloin bordello proprietors before the San Francisco earthquake. Back in the early 20th century, San Francisco was a place where women of opportunity could find immense financial freedom and wealth catering to the desires of a diverse male population. It was a different story for the oppressed female population in the Barbary Coast area. An Irish Catholic born south of Market, Tessie operated an upscale three storied lavishly furnished house at 377 O'Farrell Street into the 1920s. A friend of the mayor and a financial supporter of the police department, buying hundreds of tickets to the annual policeman's ball, for more than a decade, Tessie was named the unofficial queen of the Policeman's Ball. She led the Grand March each year dancing the first dance with the mayor...Sunny Jim Rolph. A friend of the mayor and a financial supporter of the police, Tessie was named the unofficial queen of the Police Men's Ball. She was secretly married to a state political boss who quietly ran a number of pool halls and gambling dens. After a wildy pubic divorce trial she shot him after encountering him with a lady on a public street. He refused to press charges so Tessie was released. After 1917, most of the brothels were shut down after a wave of reform. Tessie retired taking with her her enormous antique Napoleon bed. She had used her wealth to purchase antiques many from the Spreckel's estate. Tessie's three story townhouse at 535 Powell Street stands today as the last building near Union Square that began life as mansion. Worn but ornate, it currently houses an art gallery. A few years ago, their annual fundraiser celebrated the life and times of Tessie...Teresa Susan Donahue Wall.

[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)

[www.runningwithlonglegs.blogspot.com](http://www.runningwithlonglegs.blogspot.com)

[www.trivia-library.com](http://www.trivia-library.com)

### Avanti Articles

Please remember to submit Avanti articles to Corrine Sacks by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month via email to: [cpsacks@yahoo.com](mailto: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

All Hail to the King – **The Lion King** that is, back in San Francisco for a stunning run at the Orpheum theatre. This gorgeous treat for the eyes and ears has returned in all its glory. Julie Taymor's astounding sets and costumes, combined with music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice make for a magical night of theatre.

The curtain goes up on the African savannah, the sun rises slowly upstage (what a sight to see) and the griot/narrator Rafiki, the only human, non-animal character, sung, chanted, and danced by Buyi Zama of Durban, South Africa, enters as a parade of animals dance down the aisles from the back of the theatre and take their places on the stage. The show's identifying theme song, The Circle of Life, fills the theatre – and the show comes to heartwarming, riotous, colorful life.

The cast is young and enthusiastic, the dancing energetic and forceful. But what makes the show outstanding are the costumes. Each lead animal has its own mask and headpiece, bringing each to life as an individual character. Other animals have attached limbs, jointed legs, and heads that move realistically as the actor's head moves. I was especially taken with the jaguar, whose head, several inches in front of the actor's head, was

attached to the actor's by cords in such a way that it moved exactly as the actor's head moved – cocked head, chin up, side to side, actually looking over its shoulder, and so on. Other incredible effects are the wheel machines of leaping gazelles, the flying birds, the overwhelming stampede of the wildebeests, and many more.

The show is famous for Taymor's use of puppetry as well as her use of masks. Many of the animals are puppets – all sorts of puppets -- from East Asian shadow puppets to the realistic three quarter life size ones of Japan's Bunraku. What stuns me is the realism of it all. The African savannah is alive with overwhelming sounds and sights. Even the grass grows before our very eyes. The simple, rather corny plot of the boy Prince, deceived by his evil uncle and forced to leave the Pride, only to return years later and find it wrecked, the members starving and under attack, and who then resumes his rightful place and becomes the King, is saved from being utter treacle by the fabulous music and talented actors, and by the use of two characters who provide comic relief, the meerkat Timon (Nick Cordileone) and warhog Pumbaa (Ben Lipitz) both broadly played in the style of stage Jewish comedians. Ya gotta see it to believe it!

I've seen the show three times now, once on Broadway, once with the first touring company here in SF, and now with this company. It's still an absolute delight. Audiences apparently agree as **The Lion King** is Broadway's highest grossing show ever, recently overtaking the ever popular **Phantom of the Opera**. It's a great show, and a visual spectacle unlikely to be duplicated. Julie Taymor's genius makes **The Lion King** a once in a lifetime experience that no theatregoer should miss.

**The Lion King**, through Jan 13.

Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market Street,  
Tues–Sat 8pm, Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm. Online box:  
<http://www.lionking.com/ticket/san-francisco-ca>  
phone: 888-746-1799, or at the theatre Tues--Sat  
noon–8:30, Sun. noon–3.

## December Birthdays

Rene Golanty-Koel	December 8
Annie Bailey	December 15
Angie Durso	December 23

### Birthday Not Announced?

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

## Public Policy Notes

### SF Commission on the Status of Women

Instead of its regular November meeting the Commission held a planning retreat (which I was not able to attend). I'll write up the highlights when they issue the minutes.

### Women's Conference Steering Committee (formerly 5th World Conference on Women/5WCW)

The outcome of meetings in October that committee leaders had with influential leaders to the UN, was that there will not be a 5th World Conference on Women (the previous conference was in Beijing in 1995).

The San Francisco 5WCW steering committee has an interim name: Women's Conference Steering Committee. The label is temporary, because we're discussing whether there could or should be a women's conference in the U.S. We're individually drafting our vision for what needs to come next, with goals and outcomes. This is, in effect, a complete reboot and recalibration. If you have ideas, please contact me directly, [roberta@guisemarketing.com](mailto:roberta@guisemarketing.com)

### Stay informed!

To stay abreast of meetings around women's, girls'

and families issues, and for reports from the Department on the Status of Women: sign up at <http://bit.ly/YfmkYf> (or San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, [www.sfgov.org/dosw](http://www.sfgov.org/dosw)).

**Upcoming Meetings**

SF Commission on the Status of Women meets jointly with the Police Commission  
 Wednesday, December 5  
 5-7pm  
 City Hall, Room 408

Women’s Conference Steering Committee  
 Wednesday, December 12  
 3-5pm  
 25 Van Ness, Suite 240

**Roberta Guise**  
**Co-chair, AAUW-SF Public Policy Committee**

**Tech Trek Report**

The new Tech Trek year has started with active fundraising. We have the money to send 4 and one half girls already committed. We are again asking for 15 spots. The money does not need to be sent until March 1, 2013. Think about making a pledge and or joining the Tech Trek Committee. Michelle and Elaine will be happy to tell you about the duties of the Committee. We wish to thank our donors as of 11/30/2012.

- Donors for 2013  
 Joanne Mandel  
 Connie Armitage  
 Mary Graves  
 Margaret Kavounas (Peggy)  
 Stephanie Pincson  
 Mary Suter  
 Kathryn Traynor  
 Sandra Tye

Thank you for your generous donations! Happy Holidays to everyone in the SF Branch.

**Michelle Mammini and Elaine Butler, Tech Trek San Francisco Branch Co-coordinators.**

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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](mailto:Elainebutler124@comcast.net)

**Membership Updates**

If you change your address, kindly notify the Membership Chair.

**SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL**

Please dispose of your expired or unwanted medicines at a safe drop-off site.

Do not thrown medications in the trash or flush down the drain. When medications enter our waterways they contaminate water sources and harm wildlife.

San Francisco residents can dispose of expired or unwanted medicines by dropping off at any San Francisco police station. Just hand the medicines to

the officer on duty at the station.

If you live outside of San Francisco, enter your zip code in this search tool to find a drop off site near you:

[nodrugsdownthedrain.org/NoDrugs/](http://nodrugsdownthedrain.org/NoDrugs/)

## 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](http://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/](http://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](http://www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/actionpages/index.cfm)

**Mission in Action:** [www.aauw.org/publications/mission/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/publications/mission/index.cfm)

**Two Minute Activities:** [capwiz.com/aauw/home](http://capwiz.com/aauw/home).

**US Congressional Voting Record**  
[aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm](http://aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm)

## About-Face/AAUWSF /SFUSD

### Media Literacy Project

On Monday, November 19, 2012, Jennifer Berger, Executive Director of About-Face, and Susan Kwock, AAUWSF representative, attended an Action Event by the participants of our media literacy project at George Washington High School (GWHS) in San Francisco. The group, comprised

of 12-15 girls, completed their workshops on building self esteem and media literacy during September-November. As part of the program, they are responsible for an activity where they have to complete an action. The girls decided to do a Make-Up Free Day during lunch time when they talk to other students about beauty based on inner beauty, not exterior make-up.

The girls took a bold step speaking up in front of their peers, holding signs, speaking to other students about their project, and recruiting others to hold signs that read "Celebrate the Real You. Go Make-up Free!" "Don't Fall for Media Lies," "You are beautiful just the way you are. Go Make-up Free." "Make-up Free Day. Show your natural beauty." When asked what the project has done for them, several responded, "it helped me feel proud of who I am," "it helped me see beauty from the inside out," and "it helped me understand media messages differently."

The culminating activity this semester will be an action activity in the larger community. The exact location, date and nature of this action is still being planned by the participants. They will also be planning the presentation for Presidion Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Spring Semester 2013.



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**December 2012**

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

*I never think of the future – it comes soon enough.*  
**Albert Einstein**



### **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 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.