



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

www.aauwsf.org

June 2013

President's Message

At the first Annual Meeting of AAUW California in April, our branch received two honors. Kathleen Cha and Barbara Spencer attended as the San Francisco branch was recognized as the oldest in California. In addition, Roberta Guise accepted our Branch Recognition Award from Cathy Foxhoven. Please visit our Facebook page to see photos from the event.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/AAUW-San-Francisco/118625798168?v=wall&ref=nf>



Nora Wall, Secretary Tullamore BPW, Kay Power, President Tullamore BPW, Cathy Corcoran, President AAUW-SF, Marcella Corcoran Kennedy, TD (Member of the Irish Parliament).

During my recent trip to Ireland, I was delighted to have the opportunity to speak about AAUW at the Business and Professional Women (BPW) meeting in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Founded in 1930, the organization has affiliates all over the world. BPW and AAUW share many areas of interest, including advocacy for empowering women and fighting for gender pay equity. Each time I speak about AAUW I am reminded of the importance of our organization and the impact that we make in the advancement of women and girls. I am proud of our accomplishments this past year and look forward to more of the same

in the months ahead. The new Board will be installed on June 15th, and we will have a Retreat in August to plan our programs for 2013-2014. We plan to celebrate 130 years of the San Francisco Branch next Spring. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to mark this important milestone please feel free to email me at corcoranf@gmail.com I look forward to hearing from you.

Have a great summer!

Cathy Corcoran
President

AAUW National Election

This is a reminder to you to [vote](#) in the AAUW national election! Voting provides every member the opportunity to have a personal voice in directing the future of AAUW and choosing national leaders, bylaw amendments, resolutions, and a public policy program. Voting ends on June 10 – in just two weeks! – so please [cast your vote online now](#). It's easy to cast your ballot, and AAUW has created a [how-to video](#) to walk you through the process. You can also contact connect@aauw.org or call [800-326-2289](tel:800-326-2289). **Shape AAUW's tomorrow by voting today!**

Board Meeting

A Board meeting will not be held in June as we have the Installation of Officers Luncheon on June 15th.

Installation Luncheon

Please join us for the installation of AAUW-SF Officers for 2013/2014. The luncheon will be held on **Saturday, June 15th 2013**, from 11am – 1pm at South Beach Yacht Club, Pier 40A The Embarcadero. The indomitable Jo Harberson of AAUW will be on hand to install the Officers.

International Book Group

Date & Time: **Monday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.**
 Book/Author: **Beautiful Ruins**, by Jess Walter
 Hostess: Janice Gonsalves, 41 Teresita Blvd.
 Please RSVP to Janice at 415-759-9760 or
janicemarie@pacbell.net

Afternoons With Books

Date & Time: **Friday, June 21 at 1:30 PM**
NOTE THE CHANGE OF BOOK: WILD,
from Lost to Found on the Pacific Trail,
 by Cheryl Strayed
 Hostess: Joanne Mandel, 12 Marne Ave, SF
 RSVP: Joanne at 665-7329

Mystery/Adventure

Date & Time: **June 27, 7:30 PM**
 Book & Author: **The Chinese Jars**, by William
 Gordon
 Hostess: Susan Peliks, 109/111 Sutro Heights SF
 Reviewer: Sandra Tye
 RSVP: Susan at 668-2961

Tech Trek

Tech Trek Donations - we couldn't do it without
 you!

Last month's donation from Harriet and Mitchell
 Sollod should have included the following
 dedication: *Harriet & Mitchell in memory of Tania
 Madfes, a great math teacher and supporter of girls
 in math and science.*

Thanks also go to our donor Jane Hansen

TECH TREK SEND OFF June 2nd from 3-5 PM

Each of you with email have received an invitation
 from the Program VP Andrea Laudate, so I hope
 you will be there to meet our girls who were chosen
 to attend Tech Trek Camp this summer. It will be
 held at:

Sport's Basement
1590 Bryant Street, San Francisco

Street parking is available. An under-ground garage
 can be accessed off Florida Street between 16th and
 Division

RSVP:
 Michelle Mammini at 346-9114
MMammini@pacbell.net
 Elaine Butler at 415 826-3172,
ElaineButler124@Comcast.net

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

Public Policy Notes

50th Anniversary of the Equal Pay Act



AAUW members Minnie Miles (front row, fourth from right) and Reps. Edith Green (left of president, in white suit), Martha Griffiths (second from right), and Julia Hansen (far right) with President John F. Kennedy as he signs the Equal Pay Act into law on June 10, 1963. CREDIT: Abbie Rowe, White House Photographs. Courtesy of John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

June 10, 2013, marks the 50th anniversary of the
 Equal Pay Act. AAUW was there when President
 John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law
 on June 10, 1963.

The Act requires employers to give women and men
 equal pay for equal work. In 1963, women were
 paid 59 cents for every dollar men were paid.
 Today, on average that figure is 77 cents. Although
 we have made significant strides since then, true
 parity continues to elude us.

The president called the landmark legislation a
 "significant step forward" to ensuring that women
 who enter the labor force find equality in their
 paychecks. He also acknowledged the long journey
 many organizations had undertaken to call attention

to the “unconscionable practice” of paying female employees less than male employees for the same job.

After World War II, equal pay bills were introduced — some by AAUW members — in every session of Congress. In 1945, AAUW endorsed the first federal equal pay legislation, the Women’s Equal Pay Bill, and again in 1955 supported a bill by AAUW member, Rep. Edith Green (D-OR).

Despite these efforts and AAUW’s leadership in the National Committee for Equal Pay, it wasn’t until 1963 that a pay equity bill became law. Yet when Lilly Ledbetter took legal action to require her employer to pay her the same as her male counterpart doing the same work, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out her case on a technicality.

To see your daughter or granddaughter treated fairly in the workplace, please join fellow members nationwide in supporting the passage in Congress of Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 377/S. 84). Let’s fill our U.S. legislators’ mailboxes with requests to support pay equity for women!

(Adapted from AAUW and AAUW California documents.)

San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women

The commission did not meet in May.

Upcoming Meetings

SF Commission on the Status of Women (regular meeting on 4th Wednesday)

Wednesday, June 26

5-7pm

City Hall, Room 408

Level Playing Field Institute

A benefit screening of ANITA: Speaking Truth to Power

Thursday, June 11

7:30-10pm

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco.

\$40 general admission

Queen Bench

Annual Judges Dinner featuring Pioneering legal

scholar Catharine MacKinnon

Thursday, June 13

5:30 pm

Parc 55 Wyndham, San Francisco.

\$95 members/\$150 non-members

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).

Roberta Guise, Co-chair, Public Policy

Save the Date

Sunday, September 15, 2013; 1:00 – 3:00 PM

TECH TREK Welcome Back Reception with a

Silent Auction.

To donate items please contact:

Nora Lee: (415) 584-1810 nora.lee28@gmail.com

Andrea Laudate: (415)864-6789

mamalaudate@gmail.com

Travel Group

No meeting is scheduled this month. Check again for future plans!

Silver Jubilee Awards

The AAUW SF Silver Jubilee scholarship committee met recently to read and evaluate the applications received this year. We had applicants from SFSU, Sonoma State, San Jose State, UC Davis, and UC Berkeley. It is a difficult choice as there is always such a diverse range of students with very interesting backgrounds. This scholarship is designed to help women complete their last year of an undergraduate or graduate program. This year four women were chosen by the committee. Two will receive \$2,000.00 and two others will receive \$1,000.00. Each of them will also receive a one year student affiliate membership to our AAUW branch. This year all four of our scholarship winners are planning to be present at our June 15th Installation lunch. They will receive their award checks at that

time. Please plan to attend so that they can meet us and learn more about the goals of our branch. You are certain to be impressed by their educational journeys so far and their future plans. Everyone we meet has something to teach us.

Many thanks to this year's committee for their participation in the choosing process:

Pat Spencer, Roberta D'Alois, Elaine Butler, Paula Campbell, and Joanne Mandel.

Pat Camarena

Silver Jubilee Scholarship committee chair

Code breakers and Secret Keepers

Pat Camarena

Just recently PBS aired a murder mystery series called *The Bletchley Circle*. It was set in London in the early 1950s. It was a fictionalized account of a group of women who had worked together during WWII in a secret government decryption center and who reunite to use their skills to assist the police in tracking down a serial killer. Although fiction, there is a interesting and long kept secret story behind the Bletchley Park project and the people who worked there.

Bletchley Park was a sprawling country estate in Buckinghamshire that was the top secret headquarters of Britain's code and cypher school. It was the site where Germany's legendary Enigma code was finally breached. At its peak, 6,769 women were recruited to work there as compared to approximately 2,225 men. Linguists, and leading mathematicians of the day, both civilian and servicewomen (WRNS and WAAFseven a handful of debutants) worked at Bletchley Park around the clock decoding German intelligence messages. There were all kinds of jobs for women covering any part of the operations, ranging from interception, translation, analysis, through passing on the information to military commanders. Great secrecy was required of all the employees for fear that the enemy would get wind of their success and keep changing the codes.. Workers kept silent about their work for more than three decades, not even telling their families. It is thought by some historians that the work done by the code breakers shortened the war by up to three years. Much of the early work leading to computer advancement began

at this time. After the war most of the women returned to their traditional family roles although a few found jobs at BBC and one enjoyed a successful political career. Some women code breakers stayed in touch but they did not discuss their war work. Finally in 1974, a book was published that revealed the the story of Bletchley Park. Currently there are several books on Amazon concerning the significance of the covert operations carried out there as well as details of the everyday lives of the code breakers. In 2002 a well received thinking person's thriller was released called "Enigma" starring actress Kate Winslett. Plans are underway to restore the buildings at Bletchley Park to a world class heritage and education center. An important slice of world history will be revealed to a new generation. A computer museum will serve as an inspiration for the growing number of women working today in the field of computer technology.

www.mkheritage.co.uk

www.bletchleypark.org.uk

Avanti Articles

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

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

War is hell, and soldiers talk dirty. That's the primary message I received from **Black Watch**, the ACT sponsored production of The National Theatre of Scotland's show.

Presented at the Mission Armory on 14th Street, **Black Watch**, written by Gregory Burke and directed by John Tiffany is a loud, vigorous, sometimes moving portrait of the history and actions of Scotland's famous fighting group, the Black Watch. Comparable perhaps to our Green Berets or Navy Seals, but with a much longer, tradition steeped history, the Black Watch is an elite

highly trained group of fighters, created in the early 1700's in Scotland. Celebrated for doing the impossible, winning the unwinnable, this special force was most recently deployed to Iraq and then Afghanistan, which fields of battle are the subject of the second half of the show. I say second half because the 2 hour+ performance (the program says 1 hr. 50 minutes – take my word that it's over 2 hours) is presented sans intermission. I say show because this is not a play – no carefully crafted plot, no act breaks – but a hard look at men at war, presented in short scenes and vignettes. The audience is repeatedly warned that anyone who leaves “the hall” during the performance will not be readmitted. “Hall”, not theatre, is the word used over and over in the announcement broadcast before the show reiterating the no readmission rule. That's right, once the show starts you're glued to your seat till the end. The rush to the rest rooms when the show ends is noteworthy.

The show is athletic and exhausting. The ten actors are almost always in motion; marching, fighting, doing what is best described as gymnastic maneuvers. One of the most memorable bits is the history of the changes in the Black Watch uniforms. An actor appears in the first uniform, then as changes are announced his uniform is stripped and the new uniform donned – this is done as a dance/gymnastic hybrid – for example, the actor vaults onto the back of another actor, landing on his back, legs free in the air, while another actor removes his pants, yet another moves him into position for a new pair to be donned. The costumes are of course all tear-aways, yet it's dazzling to watch the many changes as the Black Watch uniform evolves from the 1700's to the present.

The actors speak with heavy Scottish burrs – which for me meant that I understood about two thirds of what was said. Of that two thirds, close to half – well maybe I exaggerate a tad – is language that features the f-word, and two versions, male and female, of the c-word, used as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, in every conceivable contextual usage. Gimme a break – I know the audience is supposed to empathize with this rough, tough, elite

fighting force, but the language is waaay too extreme, and as a result weakens the show overall.

The pure physicality of the show is powerful, and some of the visuals, the explosions, the slow descent of the bodies of those men actually blown skyward, the sense of being there on the battlefield – are gripping and terrifying.

I'm glad I saw **Black Watch**, but I wouldn't want to see it again. It didn't involve me emotionally or intellectually. For example, the overly long marching sequence at the end had me and other audience members looking at our watches. Above all, the impossibility of interpreting much of the actors' heavily accented speech, the long athletic scenes, the inability to empathize with any of the characters (the ten talented actors double to portray twelve characters) and the lack of an intermission made this a hard show to sit through.

And finally here's a wee bit of Scottish trivia – bagpipes have no volume control.

Black Watch, through June 16. Tues–Sat 8pm, Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm. The Armory Community Center, 333 14th St. at Mission, San Francisco. Enter on 14th St. Box Office: Geary Theatre, 405 Geary Street, San Francisco, phone: 415-749-2228, online: tickets@act-sf.org

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.

June Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Stephanie Pincson | June 1 |
| Kim Turner | June 8 |
| Mary Graves | June 10 |
| Lucretia Axtell | June 12 |
| Mary Suter | June 21 |
| Lois Tow | June 26 |
| Sandra Tye | June 28 |

Birthday Not Announced?

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

New Members

| | |
|---------------|---|
| April: | Yvonne Gavre Sandra Martino Christine Ng Anahit Shaterian |
| May: | Shana Angeles (SJ Recipient) Katarina Catania (SJ Recipient) Kate Kilduff (SJ Recipient) Maris Talaugon (SJ Recipient) Phyllis Hunt Lois Roberts (Member At Large) |

Re-instated Members

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| April: | Delores Schoen Dawn Wilkes |
|---------------|-------------------------------|

Membership Updates

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

MAKE A LIFETIME GIFT TO AAUW

Your gift will help ensure that the work of AAUW continues long into the future. You can become part of the distinguished AAUW Legacy Circle.

The simplest form of a legacy gift is a bequest, or a gift left to a charity in your will. Bequests often can allow donors to make a sizable gift to a charity that may not have been possible during their lifetime.

For more information, call Catherine Heffernan at the AAUW Planned Giving Office at 877.357.5587 or email her at heffernanc@aauw.org

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](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.

US Congressional Voting Record

aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm

Online AAUW Branch

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

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.

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June 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----|-----|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Tech Trek Send-off 3 PM | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Installation/ Officers 11AM |
| 16 | 17 Internat'l Book Group 7:00 PM | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Afternoon With Books 1:30 PM | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Mystery/Ad Book Group 7:30 PM | 28 | 29 |

You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right.

Rosa Parks



Avanti Editor

AAUW
 San Francisco Branch
 P.O. Box 31405
 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. It has a national membership of 150,000. 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. Check out our website www.aauwsf.org



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.

Pay Equity

AAUW has been on the front lines fighting for Pay Equity for over a hundred years.

AAUW was there in the Oval Office in 1963 when President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law.

AAUW was there when in 2009 when President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Play Act into law.

AAUW continues the fight for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure women have further equal pay protections. The pay gap is real.

AAUW will continue the fight to achieve pay equity; the economic security of American families depends on it.

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.