



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

www.aauwsf.org

May 2014

### President's Message

I was delighted to represent the San Francisco branch at the AAUW-CA State Convention in LA recently. San Francisco was recognized as the oldest branch in California at the Convention. In my role as Diversity Rep for the State Membership Committee, I had the opportunity to present a workshop with colleagues Brandy Shiners and Lisa Beauchamp from the Sacramento Branch, where I shared examples of our collaborations and partnerships with other organizations in San Francisco as a way to promote our mission and reach diverse audiences and prospective members. It was a great Convention!

Gap. Our branch was recognized by the Board of Supervisors and President David Chiu on Equal Pay Day. We will be back again next year, as our legislators failed to budge on the Paycheck Fairness Act.



Cathy Corcoran, San Francisco, Brandy Shiners and Lisa Beauchamp, Sacramento, at the AAUW-CA State Convention

One of those partnerships is with the Alliance For Girls. As a member organization, AAUW-SF was highlighted in their newsletter recently and we have been invited to present at the Annual Conference in May on AAUW's recent study titled *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*. If you are interested in attending you will find details online: <http://www.alliance4girls.org/conference>

AAUW continues the fight for gender pay equity and every year our branch marks Equal Pay Day on April 8<sup>th</sup> to draw attention to the need to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and share AAUW research *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay*



Cathy Corcoran, AAUWSF President, David Chiu, President SF Board of Supervisors and Roberta Guise, AAUWSF Co-Chair, Public Policy

**Cathy Corcoran  
President**

### Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers

Join us on **Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm, at Mescolanza Restaurant**, for the AAUW-SF Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers. **Kathleen Cha**, past AAUW-SF and State President, will be on hand to install the Board of Directors for 2014-2015. Our speaker will be **Jennifer Berger, Executive Director, About-Face**, recipient of the inaugural AAUW-SF Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award, which she received at our 130<sup>th</sup> Celebration in March. Jennifer will speak about the work About-Face is doing to equip women and girls with tools to understand and resist harmful media that affects their self-esteem and body image. More details with menu choices will be mailed out soon.

## AAUWSF Board Meeting

This month's board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., for potluck, with meeting to start at 7 p.m.** at Marilyn's Leal's home, 4325 19th Street. All members are invited. RSVP: call Marilyn at 415-626-4110.

## Afternoons With Books

**Friday, May 16 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Book/Author:** And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hesseini

**Hostess:** Pat Spencer, 505 Ortega St.

Please RSVP to Pat at 661-0347 or email at [cpbus66@gmail.com](mailto:cpbus66@gmail.com)

## International Book Group

**Monday, May 19 at 7 p.m.**

**Book/Author:** Telex From Cuba, by Rachel Kushner

**Hostess:** Nancy Shapiro, 1683 42 Avenue

Please RSVP to Nancy at 731-2654 or email at [nancy.shapiro@comcast.net](mailto:nancy.shapiro@comcast.net)

## Mystery/Adventure

**Thursday, May 22 at 7:30**

**Book/Author:** The Escher Twist, by Jane Langton

**Hostess:** Pat Camarena, 157 Amber Drive

**Reviewer:** Corrine Sacks

RSVP: Pat at 285-7589 or email at [tappat157@aol.com](mailto:tappat157@aol.com)

## Travel Group

Join the Travel Group at the Conservatory of Flowers on Saturday, May 17 at 11 a.m. for their new exhibit: **CHOMP! They Came from the Swamp**

The Special Exhibits Gallery will be transformed into a swampy paradise for hundreds of meat-eating plants. Visitors get a bug's eye view of a few of these peckish plants to learn why these plants have adapted to attract, capture and, eat prey, as well as how they have perfected and honed their hunting skills. Large models of several species throughout

the exhibit also give visitors a taste of what it might be like to be a tiny insect in a world of towering meat eaters waiting for their next meal.

Please RSVP by May 12 to Elaine Butler [elainebutler124@comcast.net](mailto:elainebutler124@comcast.net) or Adrienne Kristine at [Adrienne.kristine@gmail.com](mailto:Adrienne.kristine@gmail.com)

## 2014-2015 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is working on the board of directors nominations for the upcoming year. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about AAUW while gaining experience on a non-profit board. If you are interested in serving on the board or a committee, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Barbara Spencer at: [barbaracspencer@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracspencer@gmail.com)

## Public Policy Notes

### Gender Partnership Summit

In March I attended a 1/2 -day conference about transforming workplace culture and practices into gender partnerships for business and economic prosperity.

Emily Murase, PhD, Executive Director of the SF Department on the Status of Women (SF DOSW), co-led the panels. Titled *Gender Partnership Summit: The Economic Imperative for the 21st Century*, this public-private partnership event brought together business leaders, policy advocates and elected officials, to advance the discussion on carrying out a gender equality culture that starts at the top.

### Equal Pay Day Proclamation at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors meeting

On April 8, AAUW San Francisco commemorated Equal Pay Day by handing out Pay Day candy bars to the 11 San Francisco Supervisors, along with

AAUW's updated guidebook on pay inequity, *The Simple Truth*.

Board President David Chiu honored AAUW San Francisco with a proclamation for our organization's efforts in working towards pay equity, and equality for women, girls and families.

### **Women's History Month Celebration: Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment**

In late March, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee recognized three women who have made outstanding contributions to the community, each in different ways:

**Lynne Benioff**, for her philanthropy and leadership

**Susan Celia Swan**, for her work on V-Day and One Billion Rising

**Susan Desmond-Hellman, M.D.**, for blazing a trail as Chancellor of University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)

In her opening remarks, Emily Murase, Director of SF DOSW, publicly acknowledged AAUW San Francisco as one of the partner organizations with DOSW.

### **San Francisco Commission on Status of Women:**

In an update on gender balance within the San Francisco Fire Department, Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White told the commissioners that women have steadily moved the needle in the department, but the numbers are still low: only 15.5% of firefighters are women, up from 10% in 1998. Still, she noted, the City's department is the best in the nation for women in its uniformed ranks.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

*White House Summit on Working Families Regional Forum*

Tuesday, May 27

1-4pm

Milton Marks Auditorium

455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco

*Alliance for Girls 2nd Annual Conference*

Wednesday, May 28

12:00-6:00 pm

Schwab Center, 211 Main St, San Francisco

*SF Commission on the Status of Women (regular meeting usually on 4th Wednesdays...check online calendar before attending)*

Wednesday, May 28

4-6pm

City Hall, Room 408

### **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)).

### **Roberta Guise, Co-chair, Public Policy**

## **Tech Trek**

Thank You to Our Donors for 2014

### **Soroptimist International of San Francisco**

### **Tech Trek Update**

All 15 girls are chosen and funded. The girls chosen attend the following SFUSD Schools: Lawton, Roosevelt, Aptos, Gateway, James Denman, AP Gianinni and Presidio. They will get together at Airbnb on May 10th, to meet each other, plan carpools, receive gifts and meet more AAUW members and be updated on camp requirements.

Thank you to President Cathy Corcoran, the Branch Board, the Tech Trek Committee, Donors and friends for making 2014 an exciting year that will culminate in a Welcome Back Celebration in September.

### **Michelle Mammini, Elaine Butler, Nora Lee Tech Trek Co-coordinators**

## Hats on For Mary Pat Camarena

In 1836 a huge accidental fire destroyed all the records of the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C. Ironically the city fire department was headquartered in the same building but proved to be inadequate to quell the blaze. Consequently, just about every document and model was destroyed. Among the patent files lost was one issued twenty-seven years earlier to Mary Dixon Kies from Killingly, Conn. In 1809, Mary had received the first patent issued to an American woman.

With the rise of Napoleon in the early 19th century and given his habit of going to war with his other European neighbors, the United States, in an effort to remain neutral, began to limit the importation of European goods and began promoting domestic manufacturing. The Patent Act of 1790 had granted all Americans, both women and men, the right to protect their inventions with a patent. Given that women at that time could not legally hold property in their own name, they were not immediately seeking patents even if they had come up with a new idea.

By 1809, the time was right. The domestic clothing industry was growing due to less imports. Mary had come up with an idea for weaving corn silk and straw into cost effective women's hats and work bonnets. Her process boosted the nation's hat industry. Her hats were very popular for a time, even lauded by President Madison's wife Dolley (sometimes "Dolly"), but Mary personally profited very little.

By 1840 about twenty patents had been issued to women, mostly for domestic products. Today thousands of women apply for patents each year. More than twelve percent of all patents are received by women. Mary Dixon Kies was the first.

[www.inventors.about.com](http://www.inventors.about.com)

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

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

## Playing Now Paula Campbell

August Wilson's **Fences**, now at Marin Theatre Company, is a must-see. Wilson is America's premier African-American playwright. Almost all his plays are set in Pittsburgh's Hill District, where he grew up. Wilson's goal was to write a play for each decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, representative of life in that decade. In the course of doing so, the plays won just about every award the U.S. had to offer, including the Pulitzer, the Tony, New York Drama Critics Circle, American Theatre Critics, Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk, Olivier (England), and Wilson himself received the National Humanities Medal, Literary Lion Award (NY Public Library), Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts and Distinguished Pennsylvania Artists, [Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame](#), Artist of the Year, National Humanities Medal, and many more, too numerous to mention.

**Fences** was originally produced at the Yale Repertory Theatre in 1985, and opened on Broadway in 1987, with the same cast, and director (Lloyd Richards). I saw that Broadway production which starred James Earl Jones, as Troy Maxon, and the amazing, honey voiced Mary Alice as his wife Rose. Their performances were unforgettable. Needless to say they were in my mind when I saw the MTC production. Had they been the same it might have been difficult to review, but they weren't. The director, Derrick Sanders, took a somewhat different approach, which worked well without changing the essence of Wilson's work.

**Fences** is about love and betrayal, and the struggle of its' main character, Troy, (Carl Lumbly) to be a Black man, husband and father in 1957 America. Troy is a garbage man, once a budding star in one of the Negro Baseball Leagues, but eventually left behind. We tend to think that Jackie Robinson was the first renowned Black baseball player because he was in the major leagues, but there were others before him in the Black Leagues.

Troy's younger son Cory (Eddie Ray Jackson) plays football, and is eligible for a football scholarship to university. All he needs is Troy's written consent. Troy has given up on sports as a future for Black Americans, and turns it down. Cory suspects Troy's real motivation is fear that his son will succeed where he did not, which is a more than plausible idea.

As the play progresses, Troy winds up betraying his wife Rose (Margo Hall), his son Cory, his best friend Bono (Steven Anthony Jones), and his war damaged brother Gabriel (Adrian Roberts). All the cast is outstanding, including minor character Lyons (Tyee Tilghman). Two child actors alternate in the role of Raynell – the audience wasn't told which one was performing, so no review of her work is possible.

Troy is a man who tries hard to be strong, but is overtaken by his own weaknesses and private demons. His long monologues with Death, whom he defies and refuses to fear, are painful to watch. This is a man so blinded to his own faults, so sure that he is right, so desperate to be justified – that we feel for the man even as we hate the things he does. Rose, his long suffering wife, tries to forgive him, but clearly will be scarred forever by his behavior.

The set, lighting, costumes, sound are all perfect. This IS a front yard in the Hill District. I have some trouble with the casting of Carl Lumbly as Troy. Lumbly is a brilliant actor, whom I've seen in numerous plays. He is tall, handsome, and exudes nobility. It's physical – he just looks noble. Troy Maxon is faux noble – he'd like to be, but he isn't. It's hard to see that in Carl Lumbly – it was easy to see in James Earl Jones back in 1987 – but it goes against the grain in Lumbly. Don't misunderstand, Lumbly is brilliant in the role, he plays the weakness and the fear stunningly. Maybe this is just some personal quirk of mine, but imagine Abe Lincoln as an egoistic betrayer, stubborn in his belief he's always right and everyone else is wrong, willing to sacrifice those he loves to egoism, desire, and money. Just doesn't work for me – Lincoln is too noble.

All in all, this is a marvelous production, superbly directed and acted. It's the work of America's best African American playwright. I've seen nine of the ten plays of Wilson's 20<sup>th</sup> Century Cycle – **Fences** is one of the best. Don't miss it.

**Fences**, Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, through May 11.

Tickets: box: 415-388-5209, online:

<https://tickets.marintheatre.org>

Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Wed 7:30pm, Sun 7pm, Wed, Sun 2pm.

Please note: for the performances Sun 5/4 @ 2pm and Sun 5/4 @ 7pm, the role of Troy Maxson will be played by Adrian Roberts and the role of Gabriel will be played by Michael J. Asberry.

## New Members

Alicia Hetman  
Peg Jackson  
Jacqueline Ventura  
Beth Wells

## Membership Updates

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

## May Birthdays

Delores Schoen	May 8
Lois Roberts	May 15
Diana Scott	May 19
Phyliss Hunt	May 23

## Birthday Not Announced?

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

**Member News**

Keep your mind sharp! Learn new things!  
 A group has started to learn and play Mah Jong and will welcome anyone interested in joining. Contact Andrea at 864-6789.

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

**Online AAUW Branch**

There is an online AAUW California Branch: [www.AAUWCaOnline.org](http://www.AAUWCaOnline.org). Their dues are \$10 for dual members.

**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.

**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](mailto:heffernanc@aauw.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.

**Tech Trek Donation Form**

Michelle and I have signed up to send 15 girls again for the summer of 2014. We will need help from every member and friend of the Program to achieve this milestone again. Please continue your generous support!

\*\*\*\*\*

**2013-14 Tech Trek Donation Form**

I'm interested in sponsoring girls to go to Tech Trek 2014! 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)

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**May 2014**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Aft w/Books 1:30 PM	17 Travel Group 11 AM
18	19 Intern'l Books 7PM	20	21	22 Myst/Adv 7:30 PM	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

*The secret of getting ahead is getting started.*

**Mark Twain**

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



**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, 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 in 2009 when President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay 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.