

### President's Message

Welcome back to all AAUW San Francisco members, and welcome new members to another year of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, philanthropy, education and research. AAUW, our national organization, our state organization, and our local branches, work hard to fulfill our value promise: By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance. Did you know that as an AAUW member, you can give unlimited FREE 1-year National Memberships to any college graduate (within two years of graduation)? Details below:

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>

AAUW San Francisco is a proud member of the United Nations Association San Francisco local Council of Organizations of current national affiliated NGOs and interested bay area partners. It is an opportunity for AAUW San Francisco to connect with organizations with common goals and to spread the word about our mission. AAUW has a long and active history with the United Nations. As a member of the UN Council of Organizations, AAUW collaborates on issues such as ending all violence against women. The UN was founded in San Francisco in 1945. You will find out more about AAUW's affiliation with the UN here: <http://www.aauw.org/tag/united-nations/>. We will mark the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Details about the event can be found later in this issue of Avanti. Also, Joel Engardio will present the ballot issues on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Sheila Bost's home. I hope to see you at an upcoming event soon.

**Cathy Corcoran**  
President

### Tech Trek Ignites the Spark

Before Tech Trek went nationwide, it had a long history of success thanks to AAUW of California members and camp founder Marie Wolbach ([aauw-techtrek.org](http://www.aauw-techtrek.org)). Campers who attended from 2006 to 2009 were surveyed to find out how the camp is helping narrow the gender gap in STEM. The evaluation results show that Tech Trek ignites the spark of learning that stays with girls their whole lives. You can download a flyer with more details here:

<http://www.aauw.org/files/2014/05/Tech-Trek-CA-Alumnae-Survey-Flyer.pdf>



After Tech Trek: All smiles for a wonderful experience...

### AAUWSF Board Meeting

This month's board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 8, 6:30 p.m.** for potluck, with **meeting to start at 7 p.m.**, at Marilyn Leal's home, 4325 19 Street. All members are invited. RSVP: call Marilyn at 415-626-4110.

## Afternoons With Books

**Date:** Friday, October 17 at 1:30 p.m.

**Book/Author:** Empty Mansions by Bill Dedman, Paul Clark Newell

**Hostess:** Connie Armitage, 1952 16 Avenue  
Please RSVP to Connie at 681-2110 or email at [Connie\\_armitage@yahoo.com](mailto:Connie_armitage@yahoo.com)

## International Book Group

**Date:** Monday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m

**Book/Author:** "The Boys in the Boat," Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, by Daniel James Brown

**Hostess:** Janice Gonsalves, 41 Teresita Blvd  
Please RSVP to Janice at 759-9760, or [janicemarie@pacbell.net](mailto:janicemarie@pacbell.net)

## Mystery/Adventure

**Date:** Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

**Book/Author:** The Tourist, by Olen Steinhauer  
**Reviewer:** Elaine Butler

**Hostess:** Pat Camarena, 157 Amber Dr.  
Please RSVP to Pat at 285-7589 or email [tappat157@gmail.com](mailto:tappat157@gmail.com)

## Travel Group

The Travel Groups will not have an event this month. Send suggestions of places you would like to see (within a day's travel) to Elaine Butler.

## Public Policy Notes

### Tech Trek Welcome Back

As President Cathy Corcoran was on vacation, I was honored to stand in for her as MC for the Welcome Back event. We had a terrific turnout at the event,

and the girls delivered standout stories about their experiences. My favorite: a camper's squid exploded on her. "It was gross!" she said with a grimace, but also "loved dissecting it." Some hoped to look at the sky through a telescope but fog got in the way. A few girls noted how much creativity there is in science. Boys, are you listening?

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual CEDAW Luncheon

CEDAW — the Convention to Eliminate All forms of Discrimination against Women — is an international treaty adopted by the UN in 1979. All but 7 countries have ratified CEDAW. The holdouts: Iran, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Palau and Tonga, and the United States.

In 1998 San Francisco was the first city in the world to adopt a local CEDAW ordinance that reflects CEDAW's principles.

Every year, CEDAW awards are given to individuals who stand out for their work helping improve the lives of women. Some of this year's winners: Alecia DeCoudreaux, President, Mills College; Ken McNeely, President, AT&T California; and Elizabeth "Liz" Aguilar Tarchi, Assistant District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco.

Instead of just attending this year, I volunteered to help out at the event, which is hosted by Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women.

### Beijing + 20: An Update on the UN's CEDAW

Dr. Soon-Young Yoon, Chair, UN NGO, committee on the Status of Women, New York was featured speaker at this event co-sponsored by Women's Intercultural Network (WIN). She noted that in the U.S., we're still working to stamp out domestic violence, fighting for equal pay, and eliminating gender inequities in medical research. That last point has only recently come to light. We also had a lively discussion on the *Cities for CEDAW* campaign, that AAUW SF will be helping lead.

### United Nations 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The United Nations was founded in San Francisco! This half-day event will feature various table topics. I'll be moderating a conversation on *Cities for CEDAW*. Two new board members, **Adrienne Kristine** and **Efren Cruz**, spearheaded our participation by attending a planning meeting and setting us up as an event partner.

Come meet others from the community who care deeply about advancing women's issues and human rights. Food will be served! See below for logistics. Contact President **Cathy Corcoran** for registration information.

### Renee Golanty Koel Memorial

A heartwarming memorial was held for long-time member Renee Golanty-Koel. Public Policy Co-chair, **Sheila Bost**, was also there. During the guest comment segment I emphasized Renee's support for AAUW SF and her deep involvement with the Sister to Sister program that I'm sure many of you remember.

### California Commission on the Status of Women has a new director

The president of SF Commission on the Status of Women (COSW), Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, is now also director of the California COSW. So now we have another friend in Sacramento.

### Paycheck Fairness: hopes up, hopes dashed

Lisa Maatz, AAUW VP Government Relations, was giddy with excitement and quoted in major media after a Senate subcommittee voted for Paycheck Fairness early this month. Shortly after, the Senate GOP blocked it. It boggles the mind that anyone could be against fair pay.

### San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (COSW)

The meeting this month was held jointly with the Health Commission. We found out that the Health

Department hasn't used a gendered lens through which to look at health issues in women and girls. We now know that women present differently from men in such ailments as heart disease.

Dr. Emily Murase, Director of SF Department on the Status of Women (DOSW), noted 5 issues impacting women and girls in 2014: (1) Human rights approach to violence against women; (2) A sex trafficker can make up to \$650,000 *tax free* from just four trafficked girls; (3) Family Violence Council for helping survivors of domestic violence; (4) Status of girls: 27% feel sad and hopeless; 14% have accessed suicide counseling; 9% tried suicide; and (5) *Healthy Mothers Workplace Awards* were held this month — Twitter, BiRite Market and UCSF were among the winners.

### Upcoming Meetings

*Celebrate the United Nations 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Taking Action for Human and Environmental Rights*  
Sunday, Oct 19, 2014, 12:15am-2:30pm  
Unitarian Universalist Church

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

Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
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://sfgov.org/dosw/> (or San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, [www.sfgov.org/dosw](http://www.sfgov.org/dosw)).

**Roberta Guise, Co-Chair Public Policy**

## Ballot Issues Night

**When: Monday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m.**

Please join us for a discussion of the issues on the November 4 ballot with Joel Engardio at the home of **Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona St.**

Please **RSVP** to Sheila at (415) 664-4985 or [wawonast@earthlink.net](mailto:wawonast@earthlink.net).

Refreshments will be served.

## Living Her Life

**Pat Camarena**

What follow are quotations by a famous early 20th century woman. By whom were these seemingly timeless words uttered? Feel free to speculate as you read.

"The most violent element in society is ignorance."

"If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal."

"The most unpardonable sin in society is independence of thought."

"The motto should not be: Forgive one another; rather understand one another."

"Women need not always keep their mouths shut and their wombs open."

"The ultimate end of all revolutionary social change is to establish the sanctity of human life, the dignity of man, the right of every human being to liberty and well-being."

"Someone has said that it requires less mental effort to condemn than to think."

So...to whom can these timely remarks be attributed? Not Margaret Sanger, not Eleanor Roosevelt, not Carrie Chapman Catt, nor Mary

McLeod Bethune, although they would possibly have agreed with her on some issues that touched upon their own. The woman responsible for these words was Emma Goldman. Emma was well known for her political activism and her anarchist views. A prolific writer and renown lecturer on social and political issues which ran the gamut from birth control, to union power, and anti draft legislation. She ranks high in the early history of anarchism. Not everyone liked what she had to say. Early in her career she justified violence as a useful though distasteful tool if the social benefits outweighed the negatives. Later she softened this view after dissident voices were suppressed under the new post revolution Russian regime. After being briefly jailed, Emma was deported to Europe where she spent the rest of her life often traveling to Spain to lend her support to the civil war in the 1930s.

Although Emma voiced her opinions more than eighty years ago, many of her views sound very timely given the current world wide social and political upheavals. '

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

[www.sunsets-Berkeley.edu](http://www.sunsets-Berkeley.edu)

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

## Playing Now

**Paula Campbell**

Joshua Harmon's **Bad Jews**, at the Magic Theatre, challenges our boundaries of religious fervor, our family entanglements, how we see the future, and the effect of love, or the lack or it, on our lives. Don't miss it!

**Bad Jews** is at once an engaging, infuriating, and utterly engrossing four character play. The plot is simple. Grandpa, a holocaust survivor has died. His most prized possession, a gold Chai (Jewish symbol for life) worn on a chain, which he managed to keep safe even in Auschwitz, is

coveted by granddaughter Daphna (Rebecca Benhayon), but in the possession of grandson Liam (Max Rosenak) who plans to use it to propose to his girlfriend Melody (Riley Krull). Liam's younger brother Jonah (Kenny Toll) seems disengaged, focused merely on staying out of the crossfire between Daphna and Liam.

Daphna feels she's superior to the rest of her family because of her uber religious Judaism. She's planning to move to Israel, marry her Israeli boyfriend Egal, and join the army there. It's easy to imagine the visceral delight she'll feel in killing infidels. Meanwhile, she's working on getting the Chai; verbally (and finally physically) trying to destroy any and all family members who stand in her way. Chief of these is cousin Liam, a Cultural Studies grad student and totally assimilated Jew who's actually missed his grandfather's funeral because he lost his cell phone while skiing in Aspen. Cultural Studies -- skiing -- Aspen -- how non-Jewish can he get? He shows up later that evening, non-Jewish girlfriend Melody in tow. What ensues is a vicious struggle, which for all it's venom is often hilarious, and a sharp look at beliefs and how they shape our behavior in what can be both self serving and self aggrandizing ways.

Ryan Guzzo Purcell's brilliant direction brings out the best in all the actors. He get performances which are real and heartfelt from all four. Rebecca Benhayon is amazing -- her Daphna is nasty, bitingly spiteful, yet often on target -- or is she? She's driven by her beliefs, and as we come to understand, the need to attach herself to something meaningful in her life. She's onstage almost all the time -- it's an exhausting role and Benhayon excels in it. Max Rosenak's Liam is perfect. He loves his family and its traditions, but envisions a better world, one without religious and racial barriers. As girlfriend Melody ingenuously exclaims, "like the John Lennon song." Riley Krull's Melody develops and gains strength during the

course of the action. She becomes much more than the stereotyped cipher she seems at first, and gains our sympathy as she does so. Forced by Daphna to sing, Melody (a former Opera major) performs the Porgy and Bess ballad "Summertime" -- a less well chosen selection is hard to imagine. Her voice is bad, her gestures out of an opera students' guide. But we admire her courage in trying, at the same time wishing she'd had the courage to say no to Daphna's insistent urging. Finally, Jonah, the quiet one. Kenny Tolls performance is perfect -- Jonah just wants to stay out of the way. It's a difficult role, with few lines, but strong feelings. And at the end, the extent of Jonah's feelings turn out to be the big surprise. Enough of that -- no spoilers here.

**Bad Jews** premiered in New York, where is achieved both Outer Critics Circle and Lucille Lortel nominations for Best Play. Its UK premiere was in Bath this year. It's scheduled for a dozen productions around the US next year. Joshua Harmon has received a multiplicity of honors and fellowships, and is under commission as a playwright at both Lincoln Center and the Roundabout Theatres in NY.

You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy **Bad Jews**. Everyone who's every been part of a contentious family knows this play -- this particular family battles over religious issues, but it could be any family -- yours or mine. The subject is eternal.

(FYI, originally scheduled to close Oct 5, **Bad Jews** has been extended to Oct. 19. That in itself speaks volumes how excellent this show is, how audience demand created the need to extend the run two more weeks.)

**Bad Jews**, through Oct 15. The Magic Theatre, Fort Mason, Building D, third floor.

Tickets: Box Office 441- 8822 Online <http://magictheatre.org>  
Wed--Sat 8pm, some Sun 7pm, Sun 2:30pm.

**Afternote –**

Just got back from seeing Bill Irwin and sidekick David Shiner in **Old Hats**, at ACT. Irwin is a dying breed, a true clown, as well as an accomplished actor. The show is a masterpiece – a must see!!! I first saw Irwin in his **The Regard of Flight**, in 1982. It was clear to me that I was in the presence of genius. If you've never seen it, get the DVD and settle down for an amazing trip. You haven't really seen clownship till you've seen Irwin step in to an open trunk, and slowly walk his way down into it until he disappears from sight. Now, 34 years later, Irwin is going strong, but I wonder how much longer he'll be able to get his body to do what his brain tells it. He seems to be made of flexible plastic, or maybe rubber, but no one can keep it up forever. **Old Hats** has an accompanying band and singer – they are excellent, but clearly their inclusion in the show is to give Irwin and Shiner a break between their physically exhausting clown numbers. Sooner or later they won't be able to do this kind of work, so see them now, while they are still at it.

I recently saw the simulcast of the Monty Python reunion. The Pythons are all in their 70's now – as funny as ever, but clearly no longer able to do the taxing physical stuff. Instead of John Cleese doing his Ministry of Silly Walks bit, there's a company of professional dancers doing his moves. I thought of this watching Bill Irwin tonight. He's 64 and still doing it all, but now with breaks between each physically taxing number.

Irwin's acting career is going great guns – from **Waiting for Godot**, to **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf**, he's wowing audiences, and getting awards (2005 Tony nominee Best Actor), but his true genius is his clown work. I plan to see every thing he does for as long as he does it. A talent like Irwin's is rare, there's no one quite like him – see him while you can!!!

**Old Hats**, through Oct.12. ACT, 415 Geary St.

Ticket: Box Office 749-2228 online <http://www.act-sf.org>

Tues – Sat 8pm, Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm

**Branch News****COFFEE WITH JACKIE SPEIER**

**When: Saturday, November 1, 10:30-12:30**

**Where:** The Millbrae Library  
The Chetcuti Room

Refreshments will be served!

This is a unique opportunity to discuss AAUW and other concerns with Jackie. She is a member of the North Peninsula Branch and grew up in South San Francisco, which really makes her a local!

Contact Sue Argeris, (650) 343-5995 or email [sueearg@gmail.com](mailto:sueearg@gmail.com)

**October Birthdays**

Carol Robinson	October 1
Cathy Corcoran	October 3
Joyce Bowe	October 4
Lisa Davis	October 4
Harriet Sollod	October 10
Michelle Mammini	October 13
Marie Bartee	October 20
Esther Wong	October 23
Patricia Spencer	October 27

**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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**October 2014**

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

*I never dreamed about success. I worked for it.*  
**Estee Lauder**



**Avanti Editor**

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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.