

## President's Message



Happy New Year to all AAUWSF members and friends! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful holiday season as we look ahead to another year of advancing equity for women and girls. As we bid farewell to 2014, now is the time to reflect on our achievements as a Branch and to look forward to 2015, as we strive to achieve our goals for AAUW. Before we know it, mission-based efforts, such as Silver Jubilee and Tech Trek scholarships will be kicking into high gear. We have much to look forward to as a Branch to ensure our contributions continue to make an impact in San Francisco.

Many of the women who make a difference every day to this end in go unacknowledged, as they work hard to break down barriers, through advocacy work and providing services. As you know, we inaugurated the **AAUWSF Annual Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award** (named for our first President) last year and now is your chance as a branch member, to nominate a woman leader for the 2015 Award, someone that is making a difference in the lives of women and girls, be it through advocacy, education, philanthropy or research.

The award will acknowledge the outstanding efforts of a woman leader in San

Francisco who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of women and girls. Your nominee can be an advocate or service provider. Please email details about your nominee's background and accomplishments and why she is deserving of the honor, to Noelle Hynes, Programs Director: [NoelleHynes29@gmail.com](mailto:NoelleHynes29@gmail.com) The deadline for nominations is **Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**. The AAUWSF Board of Directors will announce the winner in the March issue of *Avanti* and present the award at our Women's History Month program in March. Details about the event will be finalized soon.



Sarah Dix Hamlin, the first president of AAUWSF

The Board of Directors will review all nominations and consider the following when choosing the award recipient:

1. The recipient shall be an individual whose achievements as an advocate or service provider

make a significant or innovative or truly outstanding contribution to the advancement of women and/or girls.

2. The recipient may be in either the public or private sector.
3. The recipient shall share interests and goals of AAUW and its members

May 2015 bring continued health, happiness and success to you and yours.

Cathy Corcoran, President

### AAUWSF Board Meeting

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

### Afternoons With Books

**Date: Friday, January 16 at 1:30 p.m.**  
**Book/Author:** Mama Rose's Turn by Carolyn Quinn  
**Hostess:** Paula Campbell, 338 Ewing Terrace  
 Please RSVP Paula at 567-1330 or email at [cambellp@usfca.edu](mailto:cambellp@usfca.edu)

### International Book Group

**Date: Monday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Book/Author:** Mornings in Jenin, by Susan Abdulhawa  
**Hostess:** Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona St.  
 Please RSVP to Sheila at 664-4985 or email at [wawonast@earthlink.net](mailto:wawonast@earthlink.net)

### Mystery/Adventure

**Date: Thursday, January 29 at 7:30 p.m.**  
 PLEASE NOTE CHANGE!!!

**Book/Author:** After I'm Gone, by Laura Lippman

**Reviewer:** Harriet Sollod

**Hostess:** Elaine Butler, 124 Amber Dr.  
 Please RSVP to Elaine at 826-3172 or email at [elainebutler124@comcast.net](mailto:elainebutler124@comcast.net)

### Tech Trek

We want to thank all the fall donors and Nora Lee for adding incentives to encourage donations.  
**Your generous gifts raised \$2242 for Tech Trek!**

### Thank you so much!

Jane Bernard-Powers  
 Patricia Metzgar  
 Elaine Butler  
 Corrine Sacks  
 Esther Wong  
 Peggy Jackson  
 Maureen Keenan  
 Roberta Guise  
 Mary Suter  
 Marilyn Leal  
 Nancy Shapiro  
 Barbara Spencer  
 Andrea Laudate  
 Cathy Corcoran & Noelle Hynes  
 Michelle Mammini  
 Connie Armitage  
 Jane Hansen  
 Sheila Bost

### Tech Trek News

The meetings for Branch Coordinators were attended by Elaine Butler (Sonoma) and Nora Lee (Curie and Hopper). There have been some changes and these will be incorporated into our procedures.

Another great announcement:  
 Lockheed Martin has invested in Tech Trek big time with a \$90,000 grant to AAUW. \$40,000 is for

national AAUW to expand camps and \$50,000 is for 4 existing camps that are near Lockheed Martin sites. This means Camp Curie and Camp Hopper each receive \$12,500. **Go Tech Trek!!!**

Mark your calendars:

**Informational Meeting for Tech Trek applicants and parents –**

**Sunday, February 15 2- 3:30 pm**

**Taraval Police Station/Community Room**

This year's interviews on March 7 and 8 at Support for Families offices 10-4 both days.

**Elaine Butler and Nora Lee and Tech Trek Committee**

### **Public Policy Notes**

#### **Equal pay legislation in San Francisco: Update**

On Friday, December 19, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee signed legislation requiring companies that contract with the city of San Francisco to disclose pay data in an attempt to ensure women are paid the same as men.

As we've previously noted, and according to the San Francisco Chronicle, Supervisor David Campos's legislation requires "city contractors with at least 20 employees to submit annual, confidential reports about employee pay to the city's Human Rights Commission.

"The reports would include information about workers' sex and race; other details of the reporting requirements will be hashed out by an equal pay advisory board created by the legislation.

We've asked that AAUW SF be considered for the Advisory Board.

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

While I couldn't attend the December Commission meeting, I asked Dr. Emily Murase, Director of the Department on the Status of Women (DOSW) for an update. She obliged by emphasizing the upcoming Gender Equality Challenge Forum and company showcase (see under Meetings, below) — a public/private partnership where employers demonstrate their commitment to gender equality by following certain sets of guiding principles DOSW has established, and documenting their success.

Participating companies that submitted gender equality best practices to the Department will be recognized. The Forum also features roundtable discussions on the different best practices being showcased.

Murase said that the single largest program receiving DOSW grants is violence against women.

Side note: Dr. Murase won her bid for re-election to the non-partisan San Francisco Unified School District Board. She was the top vote-getter in a field of 9 candidates.

#### **DOSW December newsletter featured Tech Trek appeal for scholarships**

Because of our ongoing relationship with the Department on the Status of Women, we were fortunate to get an appeal for Tech Trek scholarships featured in their final newsletter of the year — perfectly timed for year-end tax savings.

#### **San Francisco Collaborative against Human Trafficking: Conference on Labor Trafficking**

I attended this all-day event on behalf of AAUW San Francisco. Some highlights:

According to State Senator Mark Leno, this is a "devastating human phenomenon" where the

“most vulnerable are at higher risk,” and that for the perpetrators this is a \$35 billion business. Leno noted that we see trafficked individuals “in plain sight” working at restaurants, massage parlors, youth panhandling on BART or selling candy in front of retail stores, in short, “in our daily lives.”

Elmy Bermejo from the U.S. Department of Labor noted that vulnerable hourly workers who need protection speak more than 50 different languages.

When California criminalized human trafficking under AB22, it found that 72% of trafficked victims identified the U.S. as country of origin — dramatically different from public perception that trafficked victims come from other countries.

Other key messages:

- it’s hard for victims to come forward. The perpetrators threaten them and their families, they come from a culture that fears law enforcement, or there are language barriers
- if you get construction bids to renovate your home and one is too low, the contractor may be using exploited or trafficked workers
- domestic workers for consuls are particularly vulnerable to having their passport confiscated and not being allowed to leave the premises; undocumented workers are highly vulnerable to being exploited or trafficked

### Upcoming Meetings

*Gender Equality Challenge Forum*

Friday, January 30, 9am-2pm

Charles Schwab Center, 211 Main Street

*Women’s Policy Summit 2015*

Wednesday, January 14, 9am-5pm

Sacramento Convention Center

*Cities for CEDAW Conference*

Tuesday, January 20, 9:30-4pm

African American Art & Cultural Center

762 Fulton

*San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women*

Wednesday, January 28

4 – 6pm

City Hall, Room 263

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

### 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)).

My best wishes to you for a delightful and prosperous 2015!

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

## Taking the Heat

**Pat Camarena**

American women firefighters have been putting out flames for more than two hundred years despite negative criticism, harassment, and gender discrimination, as well as the physical danger the job entails. Although their numbers are slowly rising nationwide, females still make up less than 4% of firefighters. In New York City, for example, there are just 44 women out of 10,500 firefighters. In Seattle, eight% of firefighters are women. Recent overhauls regarding rules, equipment upgrades, and less evaluation weight being given to physical tests have encouraged

more women to apply.

The role of women as firefighters goes way back to the early 1800s when Molly Williams, a slave, pulled the NYC pumper truck to fires, even during blizzards, clad in her calico dress and checked apron. Back as far as 1859, in San Francisco, our own Lillie Hitchcock Coit assisted the Knickerbocker Engine Co.. #5 to haul their engine to a fire on Telegraph Hill. In New Jersey, Emma Vernell became the first recognized female firefighter at age 50, after the death of her firefighter husband. Twenty four years ago , after working her way up through the ranks, Rosemary Roberts Cloud, became the first African-American woman fire chief in Georgia. Brenda Berkman has been recognized as the first female firefighter in New York City. In the 1980s, after years facing on the job discrimination from male firefighters, she successfully pursued a lawsuit against the City for discrimination against women applicants in physical exams arguing that some of the requirements were unnecessary for the position.

Firefighting today remains a dangerous occupation for any applicant in spite of constant improvements in training and equipment. Women, in general, are more warmly welcomed into the profession. Just this previous month, in Philadelphia, a 36 year old mother of two with eleven years experience, was fatally injured battling a basement fire. She, unfortunately, became the first female member of that city's fire department to die in the line of duty.

Locally, San Francisco native, Joanne Hayes-White, has been the sometimes contentious fire chief for the last ten years. There are about 225 women firefighters in the San Francisco department, reportedly the most of any American city. Just recently, a medical study has been initiated here to investigate the higher incidence of certain cancers among women firefighters possibly due to high toxic chemical exposures to burning debris and chemical retardants.

Female firefighters understand the risks and challenges of their chosen occupation but continue to take the heat with the rest of the guys.

[www.womenfirefighterstudy.com](http://www.womenfirefighterstudy.com). The daily beast 12/12/14  
[www.upi.com/health](http://www.upi.com/health). NY Daily News blog12/10/14  
[wwwz.scienceblog.com](http://wwwz.scienceblog.com)

## Playing Now

### Paula Campbell

If you loved reading Molly Ivins' newspaper columns, or seeing her on TV, then don't miss **Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins** at Berkeley Rep. And if you've admired the stage and screen work of Kathleen Turner then you're in for a double treat, as she brings Ivins to life in this one woman tour de force.

The show is delightful – Ivins was a political creature, vivid, outspoken to a fault, using her down home Texas persona as a witty way to make her points about politics, politicians, policies, and whatever else she felt needed skewering at the moment.

Kathleen Turner is perfectly cast as the six foot, red haired, freckled Ivins. In her blue denim workshirt, jeans, and red boots she IS Ivins. She's onstage more or less alone (a silent copy boy sometimes enters and hands her news releases) for the entire show – which is exhausting for any performer, but Turner pulls it off with ease and grace.

The script, by Allison and Margaret Engel, opens with Ivins at her desk, trying to write a column about her father, the unlikeable General, but she's blocked and can't write. She begins to think about her life, career, family – and the show takes off. It's a thin premise on which to hang the script, yet in this instance very effective. The set is minimal –

a shut down news room – silhouettes of stored desks and chair upstage, Ivins' desk and chair downstage. Obie Award winner David Esbjornson's direction is spot on – photos of various people and places in Ivins life, projected against the back wall, are used to spur her memories and move the script along. Ivins died of breast cancer in 2007, which is where the play ends. Ivins-Turner speaks of her cancer treatment, and we see on the wall a video of Ivins pulling off her wig as she speaks before a live audience. Turner leaves the stage, the copy boy enters, wheels off her desk and chair, and the stage goes dark. Stage lights up – Turner enters for curtain call. The enthusiastic audience gives her a standing ovation – she bows and bows, exits and does not return for a second call – house lights up, audience exits.

I really enjoyed the show – my politics are simpatico with Ivins, and Turner was wonderful. One person shows are HARD to write – finding a spine to hang the script on is difficult – finding a credible opener and closer even more so. (Ask me about the one person show I wrote, playing Dorothy Parker at age 70.) The Engel sisters did a good job, but a script like this can't avoid feeling a bit contrived. But so what – it's a great show, beautifully performed, well directed, and a pleasure to watch. So if you're an Ivins fan, and/or a Turner fan – hie yourself over to Berkeley Rep and prepare to have a stimulating, entertaining overall wonderful time.

**Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins**, through Jan. 11.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley  
 Tickets: Box office: 510-647-2949 Online  
<http://www.berkeleyrep.org>  
 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm -- Wed, Sun 7pm -- Sat, Sun, some  
 Weds, 2pm.

### Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund

AAUW-SF has scholarship funds available in the amount of \$2,000 to upper division and graduate women who are entering the final year of a designated study program in 2015. These scholarships are competitive.

Additional information, qualifying information, and links for applications can be obtained on the AAUWSF website

[http://www.aauwsf.org/silver\\_jubilee.htm](http://www.aauwsf.org/silver_jubilee.htm)

### The Deadline for 2015 Scholarships is April 30, 2015!

All applications must be mailed to:

AAUW: San Francisco Chapter  
 P.O. Box 31405  
 San Francisco, CA 94131-0405

### January Birthdays

Jane Bernard-Powers	January 1
Susan Kwock	January 5
Wanda Holland Greene	January 8
Pat Morin	January 15
Ramona Muniz	January 24
Terese Terry	January 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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**Hospitality**

**Marilyn Leal**  
 415) 285-7589

**January 2015**

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
18	19 Intern'l Books 7PM	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Myst/Adv 7:30 PM	30	31

*I learned the value of hard work by working hard.*

**Margaret Mead**



**Avanti Editor**

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



San Francisco Inc. (CA) Branch

**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.