

President's Message

Our Branch partnered with the **Trust Women Silver Ribbon Campaign** during the month of January to mark the 42nd anniversary of Roe v Wade, to promote Reproductive Health Rights for women. We were all appalled to see banners stating that Abortion Hurts Women along Market Street in San Francisco and supported the petition to the City of San Francisco to not permit banners with such misinformation from appearing in the future. You can still sign the petition by clicking on the following link:
http://www.coalitionpetitions.org/AAUWSF/san_francisco_protect_women_and_girls_from_lies_about_abortion#.VMvwSEff-Sp

Kelly Joseph, VP of Funds, represented AAUWSF at the SF Youth Commission Annual Retreat on January 17th at College Track SF. Kelly reported that it was exciting to see youths ages 13-19 who want to be active in the City and support reproductive rights. They volunteered to write a draft resolution and an article of petition. At the event, Ellen Shaffer, Trust Women Executive Director, spoke about the banners and the importance of access to safe and legal abortions. Several of the youth had seen the banners and were perplexed by the message of abortions hurting women. They took action and wrote an article to the SF Examiner. You can read the article by clicking on the link below:
<http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/dont-mislead-youths-on-reproductive-health/Content?oid=2917826>

The fight for reproductive health rights continues and AAUW and its partner organizations will shine a light on this public policy priority for all women.

Lastly, save the date for our **Women's History Month Member Event, to be held on Saturday, March 14th, from noon to 2pm.** More details soon.

Cathy Corcoran
President

Member/New Member Social

Join us at the Historic House of Shields on the Mezzanine level for a Member/New Member Networking Social. It is located one block from Montgomery MUNI and BART station, on New Montgomery, between Market and Mission. Our Networking Social is an opportunity for AAUWSF members to mix and mingle, and invite our friends and colleagues to learn more about AAUW and our mission to advance equity for women and girls.

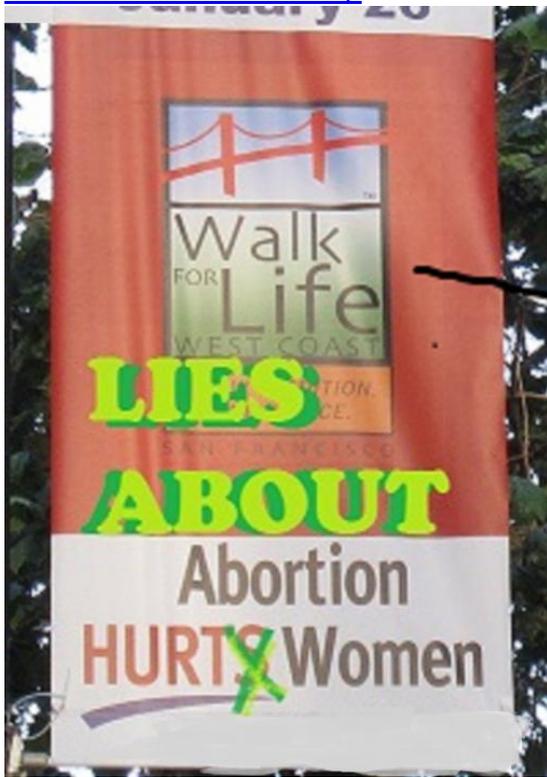


Image courtesy of Trust Women Silver Ribbon Campaign

Board members will be in attendance to answer questions and share AAUW information and fact sheets.

AAUW-San Francisco Networking Social
Wednesday, February 18th, 5-7pm
House of Shields, Mezzanine Level,
39 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco
<http://thehouseofshields.com/>

Invite your friends and help spread the word. New members can take advantage of 50% off AAUW national dues if they join at the event! Remind them about the AAUW 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.

To RSVP, visit the event page on Eventbrite:

<https://eventbrite.com/event/15577686279/>

If you have any questions, please contact Programs Director, Noelle Hynes at noellehynes29@gmail.com

AAUWSF Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award



Sarah Dix Hamlin, the first president of AAUWSF

Nominations are still open for the **AAUWSF Annual Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award**. The award acknowledges 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 The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 6th. The AAUWSF Board of Directors will announce the winner in the March issue of *Avanti* and present the award at the Women's History Month program on March 14th, 2015. Event details to follow.

AAUWSF Board Meeting

This month's board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11th, 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

Date: Friday, February 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Book/Author: Empress Dowager Cixi, By Jung Chang

Hostess: Terese Terry, 850 Powell St. #901

RSVP to Terry at 415-800-7081 or email at terese.terry@yahoo.com

International Book Group

Date: Monday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: Mission to Paris, by Alan Furst

Hostess: Jane Hansen, 601 Van Ness, Apt. 326

Please RSVP Jane at 415-225-6985 or email at jghansen@yahoo.com

Mystery/Adventure

Date: Thursday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Book/Author: The 7th Woman, by Frederique Molay

Hostess: Barbara Cahrssen, 2970 Pine St
RSVP to Barbara at 415-775-0632

Reviewer: Phyllis Hunt

Public Policy Notes

Women's Policy Summit, Sacramento

Advocates and activists from around the state came to this one-day event, sponsored in part by AAUW California. Some highlights:

The opening session was on how to get children and families out of poverty. State Senator Holly J. Mitchell told us about her "aha moment" — that 2-year olds don't get a do-over. We learned that if children live in poverty at that age, there's a high likelihood they'll grow up in poverty, with the societal and developmental consequences that accompany this situation.

Jessica Bartholow of the Western Center on Law and Poverty discussed the hoped-for repeal of a 20 year old law that denies a woman benefits for additional children if she used a certain kind of contraception. Under SB 23, introduced by Senator Mitchell, the proposed new language would say, "The bill would also prohibit the department from conditioning an applicant's or recipient's eligibility for aid on the applicant's or recipient's disclosure of information regarding rape, incest, or contraception, as specified, or the applicant's or recipient's use of contraception."

There was a discussion on generational poverty, where children born in poverty in 2008 aren't ready for school in 2015. Their parents are stuck outside the workforce, because they don't have access to child care.

Mary Ignatius of Parent Voices pointed to a poverty continuum, where families in deep or shallow poverty, or on the precipice of making it, are pitted against those who have subsidies and those who don't.

In the discussion of human trafficking and sexual violence, we learned that while 1 in 2 women and 1 in 5 men will experience sexual violence in their lifetime, in California only \$45,000 is committed annually to sexual violence programs from the State Budget. There is no budget for prevention. We were advised that if we look at any unregulated industry, such as domestic work, we'll be likely to find human trafficking.

San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (COSW)

The Department on the Status of Women (DOSW) reported that the Department's budget will not be reduced this fiscal year, and that there will be increases for new programs. The COSW approved 3-year funding recommendations for the *Violence against Women Prevention and Intervention* program, which covers the city's most vulnerable populations.

Also noted was the mayor's plan to partner on a women's economic empowerment summit with Oakland Mayor Libby Shaaf, to be convened later this year. DOSW will spearhead the effort.

Side note: DOSW Director and SF School Board Commissioner, Dr. Emily Murase, was unanimously voted in as President of the SFUSD Board. Congratulations Emily!

Tech Trek notes

During public comment at COSW January meeting, I mentioned Tech Trek, and that we're still looking for scholarships. After the meeting a commissioner came up to me and pledged a

partial scholarship. Two days later, while I was at the Gender Equality Principles Challenge 2015 Summit (a business event), a colleague pledged a partial scholarship.

Upcoming Meetings

One Billion Rising for Justice (V-Day)
Thursday, February 12
12-1pm, City Hall Rotunda

Accelerate: Women & Girls Launch
Wednesday, February 18
11am-2pm, Metropolitan Club, 640 Sutter

Family Violence Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 18
3-5pm, 400 McAllister, Room 617

*Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking
General Meeting*
Wednesday, February 25
1:30-3:30pm, City Hall, Room 201

*San Francisco Commission on the Status of
Women*
Wednesday, February 25
4 – 6pm, City Hall, Room 408

*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).

Roberta Guise, Co-Chair Public Policy

Always Becoming Pat Camarena

An iconic African American woman passed from our midst in 2014. She was a well-known actress and writer whose long career earned her an Emmy, an Oscar nomination, Kennedy Center honors, Screen Actors Guild awards, and the prestigious National Medal of Art. Her film credits included *The Jackie Robinson Story*, in 1950, *Raisin in the Sun*, in 1961, all the way to *American Gangster* in 2007.

Perhaps less well known was her life long commitment to social justice activism. She participated in civil rights marches and boycotts, sit-ins, and political campaigning. She and her husband, Ossie Davis, served as mistress and master of ceremony at the 1963 March on Washington. New York's Urban League awarded her the Frederick Douglass Award in 1970. In 1999, at the age of 77, NYPD arrested her for protesting the police shooting of Amadou Diallo. In 2005, the National Civil Rights Museum presented her with their Lifetime Achievement Award.

This multi-talented woman was Ruby Dee. Said she, "The kind of beauty I want most is the hard-to-get kind that comes from within.....strength, courage, and dignity." Ruby Dee was blessed with all three qualities and then some!
www.brainyquotes.com
www.womenshistory.about.com
www.biography.com

Playing Now Paula Campbell

Noel Coward, Angela Lansbury, what's probably Coward's funniest play, amazing stage effects, and oh yes Angela Lansbury, great costumes, inspired direction, and yes, yes, yes Angela Lansbury – find it all now at the Golden Gate Theatre in Coward's **Blithe Spirit**, my personal favorite of all his plays.

Although the run will be over by the time you read this, (unless there's a last minute extension, which I doubt) I couldn't let it go unreviewed and unheralded. Lansbury, now 89 years old, says this will be her last tour, her last appearance on stage. She started professional performing at age 16 – and hasn't stopped yet. During these years she acquired 5 Tony Awards, 6 Golden Globe Awards, 3 Oscar nominations, one Oscar for Lifetime Achievement, and 18 Emmy nominations. She is one of my personal inspirations – a true monument to a life in the theatre.

For those of you unfamiliar with **Blithe Spirit** it's a farcical romp. Charles, and Ruth, his second wife, along with some friends, invite Madame Arcati, a spiritualist and medium, to hold a séance at their home. Arcati unwittingly brings back the spirited Elvira, Charles' first wife. The seductive Elvira haunts Charles and Ruth, hoping to drive Ruth away, and planning to kill Charles so he can join her in the afterlife. Ruth is killed by mistake after Elvira tampers with the car she expected Charles to drive. Charles begs Arcati to have another séance in order to dematerialize Elvira, but the medium succeeds only in bringing back Ruth as well. Charles, now tormented by two jealous women instead of one, convinces Arcati to return and try again, this time to send both women back. The result is successful, and literally brings the house down.

Lansbury's Arcati, getting ready to cast her spells, is amazing – a perfect example of low stage humor. She stalks the stage, in a combination of sexy vamping and John Cleese doing one of his Ministry of Silly Walks. Her hands flutter, her fingers twitch – she waves, she beckons – her body turns this way and that – her face contorts – her body spasms – and if interrupted by being asked if she's OK snaps out at once to say she's fine, and pops right back into what she was doing.

Blithe Spirit has always meant a lot to me. As a young woman I yearned to play Elvira, though I never got the chance. One of the first indications to me that I was physically aging was when I told an acquaintance that I wanted to be in **Blithe Spirit**, and was told in response that I'd make a perfect Madame Arcati. So, from youth to old age this play has been in my head.

IF the run is extended, race to the box office to get tickets. If not, rent the 1945 film of **Blithe Spirit** which featuring Rex Harrison as Charles and the great, super size Margaret Rutherford as Madame Arcati, and prepare to laugh yourself silly.

Golden Gate

Blithe Spirit, through Jan 1. SHN Golden Gate Theatre 1 Taylor St. (at 6th and Market)
 Tickets: Box Office: (888) 746-1799 Online [HYPERLINK "http://www.shnsf.com/online/"](http://www.shnsf.com/online/) www.shnsf.com/online/
 Tues-Sat 8pm, Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm.

Tech Trek Donation Form

Michelle and I have signed up to send 15 girls again for the summer of 2015. We will need help from every member and friend of the Program to achieve this milestone again. Please continue your generous support!

2014-15 Tech Trek Donation Form

I'm interested in sponsoring girls to go to Tech Trek 2015! 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.

Mail your donation addressed to:

Elaine Butler & Michelle Mammini 124 Amber Dr., SF , CA 94131-1626; Elainebutler124@comcast.net

Or you can donate through our website : [http://www.aauwsf.org/](http://www.aauwsf.org) and click on the yellow PAYPAL tab on the left side of the screen, then choose your payment option!

New Members

Latonia Dixon
Mary-Anna Rae

Lunching Out and Loving it

We were in the nostalgic mood, and decided to return to some of the places that have been serving San Franciscans for decades. Can we still enjoy them, or were they musty and stale? Good news on some. We went to John's Grill, and were surprised that we weren't surrounded only by visitors to our city. Although the menu hasn't been changed much to reflect some of the new culinary experiments around town, there was lots of choices. We indulged ourselves with meat. The lamb chops were beautifully prepared and presented. We left the bare bones! The salads were good and we loved the fried oysters (not something you get everywhere). Try their bar, the bartender knows how to mix a mean cocktail!

We also went to The Rotunda at Neiman Marcus. What a different experience, as light and airy (and good view of the all the construction in the area!) But the surprise is the food. Not only their signature popovers with strawberry butter, but everything we tried was excellent. Lobster bisque, rich and creamy, The grilled salmon was enough to take home for another meal, the roasted beets

with burrata cheese is a salad, but it could serve as an entrée. We loved everything on the menu, but save some room for dessert!

John's Grill: 63 Ellis Street. 415-986-0069

The Rotunda: Neiman Marcus, 15 Stockton St. 4 Fl. 415-249-2720

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

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

February Birthdays

Margel Kaufman	February 8
Marilyn Leal	February 10
Ruth Rischin	February 22
Corrine Sacks	February 25
Joanne Walton	February 26

Birthday Not Announced?

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

AAUWSF Board

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February 2015

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

We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.

Maya Angelou



Avanti Editor

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 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



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.