

President's Message



AAUWSF Past Presidents: Mary Suter, Cathy Corcoran (current President), Elaine Butler, Kelly Joseph and Andrea Laudate.

March is Women's History Month and affords us the opportunity to look back and recognize the contributions and accomplishments of AAUW San Francisco over the past 130 years. From providing scholarships annually to college women through our Silver Jubilee Fund, to sending fifteen middle school girls to Tech Trek math and science camp every summer, our branch members are united and focused on providing opportunities for women and girls who need support, through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Integral to that success are our branch leaders, our past presidents, who worked tirelessly to move the branch forward and fulfill its mission to break down barriers for women and girls. Their contributions continue to be felt today and I continue to seek out their advice and energy to plan mission-based programming and community partnership connections. How appropriate then to mark **Women's History Month on March 14th** and have, as our guest speaker, **Wanda Holland Greene**, branch member and Head of School, the Hamlin School, founded by our branch's **first president**

Sarah Dix Hamlin. Wanda will share insights into the history of the school and the leadership of its founder. How exciting then to present the **2015 Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award to past president and current Tech Trek Coordinator, Elaine Butler**, whose contributions to our branch span decades and multiple leadership roles. Join me on March 14th for what promises to be a wonderful celebration of our branch and its leaders, past and present.

Cathy Corcoran
President

AAUWSF Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award

Congratulations to Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator, recipient of the 2015 **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. Congratulations also go to the other nominees for this year's award: Noreen Farrell, Executive Director of Equal Rights Advocates and Emma Mayerson, Director of Alliance for Girls. The award will be presented to Elaine at the Women's History Month Brunch on March 14th, 12-2PM at the South Beach Yacht Club. Details about the event are provided in this issue of Avanti.

AAUWSF Board Meeting

This month's board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 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, March 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Book/Author: Nineteen Eighty-Four, by George Orwell

Hostess: Michelle Mammini, 2520 Greenwich
Please RSVP to Michelle at 415-346-9114 or
mmammini@pacbell.net

International Book Group

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

Book/Author: The Well-tempered Heart, by Jan-Phillippe Sendker

Hostess: Nancy Shapiro, 1683 42nd Ave.
Please RSVP to Nancy at 415-731-2654 or
nancy.shapiro@comcast.net

Mystery/Adventure

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

Book/Author: The Turkish Gambit, by Boris Akunin

Hostess: Phyllis Hunt, 37 Midway St. #4
Please RSVP to Phyllis at 415-391-1171

Reviewer: Sandra Tye

Travel Group

Tech Trek and other Branch activities and a large committment have all my time for this month. Let's try for a trip after 4/15. If you have any suggestions for places to visit nearby, please let me know.

Elaine Butler, 415-826-3172 or
elainebutler124@comcast.net

Tech Trek

We needs lots of help this month with interviews on March 7 & 8. They will be held at Support for Families of Children with Disabilities at 1663 Mission St, 3rd Floor. This non profit donates their counseling rooms for interviews. If you get a call from Michelle Maminni, please respond or get back

to her. If you would like to interview, let people into the building, talk with parents or take photos of the girls, please let Michelle Mammini know you are available to help: mmammini@pacbell.net.

We still need \$600 to fulfill the money needed to send 15 girls. If you pledged money, we are counting on your donation as soon as possible. Thank you so much everyone. This is our most difficult time of the Tech Trek year with tight timelines.

Elaine Butler Coordinater and extra hands - Nora Lee and Michelle Mammini. They deserve many, many thanks.

Thanks to our Donors for February

Mary Suter

Joanne Mandel

Pat Camarena

Barbara Spencer

Sheila Bost

Pat Spencer

Soroptimist International San Francisco Chapter

I am sorry if I forgot anyone!

With great gratitude, the Tech Trek Committee

Save the Date

The next International Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 23 at OshaThai. Details and Menu to follow.

Public Policy Notes

Equal Pay Day — April 14

On behalf of AAUW SF, I'm co-leading the effort to get visibility for the issue of pay inequity and why we commemorate Equal Pay Day. Be sure to mark your calendar to come to City Hall from 1-3pm on April 14, and support our branch as a major voice for equal pay in San Francisco. We'll be on the Polk Street steps at 1pm, with speakers including Mayor Ed Lee. Right after the speakers, we'll move to the Board of Supervisors chambers, where we'll make our case for equal pay during the supervisors' meeting.

UN Commission on Status of Women 59th Annual Meeting

This year I'm a delegate from San Francisco to UN CSW59. The big topic will be review of the Beijing Platform for Action, also known as Beijing+20. It's been 20 years since the last global women's conference, where then First Lady Hillary Clinton famously said, *"It is time for us to say here in Beijing, and the world to hear, that it is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights...It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls, or when women and girls are sold into slavery or prostitution for human greed."*

Look for my notes from the UN in April *Avanti*.

Lead On Conference for Women

I attended this inspiring conference that featured such speakers as Diane Von Furstenberg, former New York Times Editor-in-Chief Jill Abramson, and Secretary Hillary Clinton. Clinton's speech focused largely on gender equality and human rights as they pertain to women and girls. It was refreshing and gratifying to hear her policy ideas in the context of a conference for women in business.

Accelerate: Women & Girls Launch

This event was the first official roll-out of what the organizers aim will be a cohesive women's movement in the U.S. The partnership has been rebranded as "It's Time." The first summit, *It's Time 2015 Partnership Summit to Elevate Women's Leadership* will be held in Baltimore, May 1-3. See ItsTime2015.com for more information.

San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (COSW)

The Department on the Status of Women (DOSW) is appointing two people to the advisory board for the city's new equal pay legislation (affects businesses with 20+ employees that have contracts with the city). Qualifications include quantitative experience, and nonprofit contractor with the city. Meetings will be open to the public.

Supervisor Katy Tang provided an update on Assembly Bill 1147, which closes loopholes in oversight of massage parlors in the city. Some establishments have been implicated in sex trafficking. The bar has been set higher for massage parlors to obtain permits. For example, more hours of general instruction are now required.

During public comment, I promoted our upcoming Women's History Month brunch and award presentation. I invited people to come and learn about AAUW SF and the valuable work it does advocating on behalf of women and girls, and also for the good food!

One Billion Rising

The event in the City Hall rotunda drew a couple of hundred people who heard Mayor Ed Lee and other speakers talk about the city's efforts to raise awareness and fight against domestic violence. After the speakers people danced to the now familiar One Billion Rising anthem.

Upcoming Meetings

Women History Month Award Ceremony
"Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives"

Tuesday, March 2, 2015

3:30 - 5 pm, City Hall, Room 250

Reception 5:30 - 7 pm, City Hall, Room 201

Join the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, Board of Supervisors and District Attorney George Gascón to recognize the 2015 Women Making History Honorees!

San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women

Wednesday, March 25

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).

Roberta Guise, Co-Chair Public Policy

Famous (but less well known) Firsts

Pat Camarena

Here are a few questions for Women's History Month concerning lesser known women of great vision who might have escaped our notice. The first two of these four women I will tell you a little about this month and the other two in the April Avanti. Perhaps by April, you will have discovered their stories on the Women's History Project website where there is a more extensive history quiz.

Question 1: Who was the first American woman poet whose poetry was published first in London in 1650?

Question 2: Who was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Physics?

Question 3: Who was the first Black American woman symphonic composer to have a symphony performed by a major orchestra?

Question 4: Who became the first female rabbi in the United States?

The first woman was a Puritan poet. both her husband and father were governors of Massachusetts. Her name was Anne Bradstreet. Under appreciated in her own time, living in a restrictive society in which most women were primarily concerned with domestic duties. some of her poetry was taken first to England for publishing. Anne became the first woman poet to

write English verse in the new American colonies. Few other women were to become published poets for the next two hundred years. Anne's literary works became more widely known after her death. Said Anne, "Authority without wisdom is like a heavy axe without an edge, fitter to bruise than to polish." These words could have been written today, rather than four hundred years ago, and still ring true.

German born Maria Goeppert Mayer, our second woman, immigrated to America with her scientist husband. A well educated physicist in her own right, she could only find part-time work in her field or took on volunteer work at the institutions where her husband was employed. It wasn't until she was in her forties that she landed a part-time position as a senior physicist at the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago in the Theoretical Physics Division. This was the first time in her career that she was working full time and being paid at a level commensurate with her extensive training and expertise. Eventually, at the age of fifty-four, she made the breakthrough which earned her tremendous fame and respect in her field by developing a mathematical model for the structure of nuclear shells. In 1963, when she was 57, Maria was awarded the Nobel Prize becoming the first woman to win in the field of theoretical physics. Maria believed that physics was solving puzzles created by nature, not by the mind of man. "Winning the prize wasn't half as exciting as doing the work itself."

Note: Questions 3 and 4 will be answered next month in this column!

www.goodreads.com

www.brainyquotes

www.nobelprize.org

www.biography.com

www.nwhp.org

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

Two reviews today – **Tree** and **Newsies**.

Tree, at the San Francisco Playhouse is this season's must-see play. In fact, it's the must-see of the last few seasons. It closes March 7, so get your tickets now! I would rate it as the best thing I've seen in the last few years and that includes Angela Lansbury in **Blithe Spirit**. Award winning author Julie Hebert writes extensively for theatre and TV and has collected two PEN Center West Awards, a Peabody Award, Bay Area Critics Circle Award, Drama-Logue Awards, Bay Guardian and SF Chronicle Award, and an Emmy. She has been the recipient of more than ten grants and fellowships, to list just some of her achievements in writing and directing.

Tree is a family story, a brother, his sister, his mother and his daughter. It's a story of love and betrayal, generational differences and conflicts, the dangers of memory (which is so often deceptive), overlaid by racial issues. Brilliantly directed, with care never to have a heavy hand, by Jon Tracy, **Tree** opens with Didi (Susie Damilano) knocking on Leo's (Carl Lumley) door. She is white, he is black. After a faltering false start, she tells him they are brother and sister. Ray, their white father has died, and his long concealed letters and other papers tell the story. As they speak we hear singing, shouting, howling, stamping, thumping, coming from upstairs. It's Jessalyn (Cathleen Riddley) Leo's black mother, waking up. She is in the throes of dementia, with some, but few, lucid moments. Leo can't believe, doesn't want to believe, Didi's story. Eventually JJ (Tristan Cunningham) Leo's daughter arrives to care for her grandmother while Leo goes to work. Eventually the family learns the story of their history – Jessalyn brings out her letters which, along with Ray's, tell a very different story than any of them believed.

That's it -- no more details from me – no plot spoilers here – suffice to say **Tree** is a marvelous

play, and shouldn't be missed. The directing is perfect, the actors are superb, (Riddley's performance is beyond brave and unforgettable) Nina Ball's set is exactly right for the show's spirit as well as it's physicality, and Jon Tracy's direction is impeccable. DON'T MISS THIS PLAY.

Tree, through March 7. SF Playhouse 450 Post Street (2nd Floor of Kensington Park Hotel) between Mason and Powell. Tickets: Box Office 415-677-9596 Fax: 415-677-9597 Online: <https://sfplayhouse.vbotickets.com/selectevent/Tree/4719> Tues-Wed-Thurs 7pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm, (some) Sun 2pm.

And now for something completely different (*literary reference to Monty Python – any Pythonites reading this?*) It's a rip-roaring, fun, athletic musical that will leave you satisfied and smiling – **Newsies**, at the Orpheum Theatre.

Newsies, based on the real event of the NYC newsboys strike in 1899, started life as a not very successful film, then was adapted for the stage by the Disney organization. It was expected to be small show, even though it had music by [Alan Menken](#), lyrics by Jack Feldman, and book by [Harvey Fierstein](#). It opened in 2011 at regional theatre in New Jersey, and within a year had transferred to Broadway, where it became a smash hit. It won two of the eight Tony Award nominations it garnered, and also won two of the six Drama Desk Awards for which it was nominated. With 1004 performances, **Newsies** is on the list of longest running Broadway shows.

The touring company is excellent. The actor/dancer/singers are in top form – which they need to be to meet the extreme demands of Christopher Gatelli's highly athletic choreography. It stuck me at Intermission that the cast is almost entirely male. An entire show choreographed for young men – what a challenge – and what an achievement Gatelli's brilliant choreography is!! Jeff Calhoun's direction doesn't miss a beat. The

set, a bare steel framework several stories high, is notable -- perfect for a touring company. It moves around the stage, comes apart in sections, each of which rotate, move back forth and sideways, become taller and shorter. I'd like to have been the supplier of stage hardware for this show -- never seen this much used in one show. The cast is amazing -- young, enthusiastic, full of life.

Newsies is a show to love, it's just impossible not to. As one of the few female characters, a news reporter, tell the newsboys -- it's a David and Goliath story. She names it The Children's Crusade.

Newsies tells the real story of how the poor, rag tag newsboys of NYC, facing an increase in the cost to them of the papers they sell, organize and take on the Joseph Pulitzer, and eventually the Hearst publishing companies. They form a union, strike, and refuse to be beaten down, even after they are beaten literally by hired goons. They prevail and their demands are met in a compromise which benefits both side.

I highly recommend **Newsies** -- it's heartwarming fun, with spectacular dancing, great music (the audience cheered for "King of New York"), all beautifully performed, and a real treat for the eyes and ears. It received a standing ovation the night I saw it, which apparently happens at every performance.

Newsies, through Mar 15. Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market Street,

Tues--Sat 8pm, Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm Tickets - Phone: (855) 305-4876

Online: <https://www.shnsf.com/online/mapSelect.asp>

Orpheum Theatre box office hours: February 23 - March 15
Mon / CLOSED Tue - Sat / Noon - 8:30pm Sun / Noon - 4pm

nb. Beware online ticket sites that may be linked to newsies sites, but are private ticket agencies. The only official ticket site is listed above.

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

March Birthdays

Pat Camerena	March 1
Helynna Brooke	March 2
Margaret Kavounas	March 8
Paula Campbell	March 16
Nancy Pellosi	March 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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March 2015

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

When in doubt, choose change.

Lily Leung



Avanti Editor

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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.