

## President's Message



Alicia Hetman, Karn Baker, Andrea Laudate, and Barbara Spencer

August 26 was the 95th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States, and there were a number of events commemorating it. Andrea and I went to Sacramento to support A Stronger California, a coalition of women's groups to secure better economic opportunity for all women. AAUW is a member of this coalition. Our purpose was to lobby our state legislators to vote for a number of bills that will improve the condition of women and their families. Andrea and I boarded a bus at Civic Center in San Francisco along with a number of women, children, a sprinkling of men, and two dogs, and headed for Sacramento. There, we met up with Sue Miller (AAUW State Public Policy Director), Alicia Hetman (AAUW National Board Vice Chair), Krys Wulff (former state president and current president of state online branch), Jane Winter (Marin AAUW and executive director of Marin and San Francisco YWCA), and several other AAUW members. Our group was given an assignment to talk with Assemblyman Tony

Thurmond from Richmond and Assemblyman Mark Stone from Santa Cruz/Monterey about three bills in particular. Our job was easy because they both supported the bills.



Our Lobbying Group with Assemblyman Tony Thurmond

The bills that we discussed with the legislators were SB 3 (Leno) to increase the minimum wage in California to \$11 per hour beginning in January 2016, and \$13 per hour in July 2017, SB 23 to eliminate the maximum family grant rule for families receiving assistance through CalWORKS, and SB 406 to ensure that more employees will be able to use their Paid Family Leave benefits without fear of losing their job.

Many different organizations were part of this lobbying effort. A bus load of people came from the Fresno area as well as from Oakland. We all got together on the Capitol steps for a rally and heard from a number of legislators. The event was coordinated by Equal Rights Advocates whose executive director Noreen Farrell is a member of our branch.

**Andrea Laudate and Barbara Spencer, Co-Presidents**

## AAUWSF Board Meeting

This month's board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 9th** at 6:30 p.m. for potluck, with meeting to start at 7 p.m., at Corrine Sacks' home, 1835 Franklin St. #401 (between Sacramento and Clay). All members are invited. RSVP: Call Corrine at 415-292-4130

## Afternoons With Books

**Date: Friday, September 18 at 1:30 p.m.**  
**Book/Author:** At Home in the World by Joyce Maynard  
**Hostess:** Paula Campbell, 338 Ewing Terrace  
 Please RSVP to Paula at 415-567-1330 or [campbellp@usfca.edu](mailto:campbellp@usfca.edu)

## International Book Group

The next meeting of the Int'l Book Group has been **changed to:**

**Monday, September 21, 2015 7:00 p.m..**  
**Book/Author:** All the Light We Cannot See, by Anthony Doerr.  
**Hostess:** Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona St. at Taraval  
 Please RSVP to Sheila at 415-664-4985 or [wawonast@earthlink.net](mailto:wawonast@earthlink.net)  
[October Int'l Book Group Date Change](#)

Due to the [Ballot Issues](#) event scheduled on October 19, the Int'l Book Group will meet on Monday, October 26.  
 Details will follow in the October Avanti.

## Tech Trek

The San Francisco Branch of AAUW has had great success in sending many young girls to Tech Trek, where they can fortify their interest in science, math, and technology during a one week stay at participating universities.

It takes a lot of hours to identify and interview girls who have the potential to benefit from this exposure.

We need volunteers who can schedule a few hours of their time, over the course of the year. More information will be forthcoming, so think about when you can help.

## TECH TREK WELCOME BACK:

We had a marvelous turnout on Sunday, August 30, with over 70 people meeting at the Exploratorium, to welcome back this year's campers. They shared their stories with us, as did some of the parents. We encourage all Tech Trek Alumni to come to future Tech Trek informational meetings and encourage girls (and their parents) to take advantage of this singular opportunity.



## Tech Trek Donors for August

Schwab Charitable  
 Stephanie Graham  
 Thank you for your generous contributions

**Elaine Butler and Nora Lee,**  
**Tech Trek Coordinators**

## September Events

**Date: September 30th--from 11:30 to 2:00**  
**Meet Mark Hopkins, AAUW's Chief Strategist**  
 who will be answering questions from our branch about AAUW planning and long range visions.  
 The cost is **\$27, including lunch** and will be held at

The Club at McInnis Park, 350 Smith Ranch Rd., San Rafael.

Checks for \$27 made out to AAUW Marin and mailed to Cherie Sorokin, 120 Gelbert Dr. Tiburon, CA 94920. Please indicate choice of entree salad on your check (Prawn Crostini Salad, Club Veggie Salad, TexMex Chicken Salad). Any further questions, please contact Pat Morin at [Morinpatr@aol.com](mailto:Morinpatr@aol.com).

### Save the Date

Monday, October 19: Joel Engardio will discuss Ballot issues on the upcoming election.

### Confidence and Courage Pat Camarena

**Susan Rice has been the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and the NSA advisor to President Obama. Bonnie St. John has been an Olympic medalist, author, and long time leadership consultant. Naomi Wolf is a feminist author. Rachel Maddow is a TV host and political commentator. Leana Wen is a physician, patient advocate, and writer. Jennifer Gruber is a flight dynamics officer, Space Shuttle Mission Control at NASA. These six American women have chosen very different career fields. But, as young American women, they have shared a unique educational experience that has shaped their lives, their impact on our lives, and their world view. All six of these women have been Rhodes Scholars like about 900 other women. There have been more than 8,000 other Rhodes Scholars , mostly men, since the inception of this prestigious post-graduate scholarship program established under the will of Cecil Rhodes in 1902. 83 scholars are selected yearly from about fifteen countries. Rhodes' vision in founding the foreign graduate scholarship program in his will was to develop outstanding leaders who would be motivated to**

"fight the good fight" and "to esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim", and "to esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim", and to " promote international understanding, and peace". However, women were not allowed to apply for the first 75 years . Cecil Rhodes could not have anticipated the changes that the twentieth century would bring such as the women's movement and Title IX. In 1977, the Rhodes Trust worked to open the scholarship program to women recognizing that the values of equality extended beyond the vision of its founder. This year about 37 women were chosen, one from Palo Alto attending Princeton, and another a Stanford student from Colorado. Of Rhodes women by country, the USA currently leads with 40%. 62% have been from North America. The number of female scholars has been steadily increasing. 38% of post 1977 Rhodes Scholars have been women.

English born, Oxford educated, Cecil Rhodes became an extremely wealthy mining magnate who attended college where these fortunate scholars now study for two years or so. He became a controversial businessman, with different values from today, and also a South African politician whose fortune was acquired during a time of racism, imperialism, and colonial oppression. Still today his fortune goes to fund the world's first international study program designed to educate committed global leaders both women and men from many different countries, something that Cecil Rhodes could never have imagined or probably understood.

[www.rhodesproject.com](http://www.rhodesproject.com)  
[www.americanrhodes.org](http://www.americanrhodes.org)

### Playing Now Paula Campbell

It's been a banner few seasons for Steven Sondheim in local San Francisco theatres. We had

his **Into the Woods** last season, **A Little Night Music** this year, and the SFPlayhouse is ending its season with **Company**.

Unlike the fairy tale **Into the Woods**, and the turn of the century **A Little Night Music**, **Company** is contemporary – it takes place in the here and now. Although originally produced 45 years ago, when marriage and the roles of men and women were viewed differently, this production is totally set in today's world, the ideas it presents are real and current. The questions it raises about marriage are as valid today as they were in 1970.

It's an almost lighthearted romantic romp. I say "almost" because although our hero does not find the true love that all his married friends recommend to him, he seems content when the final curtain falls. And Sondheim isn't known for his happy endings; the principals in **Night Music** don't get their hearts desire, but at least they are alive in Act 2, unlike half the characters in **Woods**, who don't survive to Act 2.

Okay, so Sondheim's musicals are a bit morose – but they are wonderful. It's the music, the music, the music. And the feelings, the feelings, the feelings.

Brilliantly directed by Susi Damilano, co-founder and Producing Director of the SFPlayhouse, **Company** is the story of Bobby, a confirmed bachelor, who has three girlfriends, but no one who really touches his heart. It's his birthday, and his friends, all married couples, are giving him a surprise party. Bobby resists their matchmaking attempts – and reveals the flaws in their marriages without destroying his relationships with them.

**Company** has a cast of fourteen – that's a big cast! Dave Dobrusky, musical director and Kimberly Richards, choreographer, make the most of their performers' talents. There are a lot of wonderful

voices, and some smashing dancing. Bill English's multi leveled set provides easy scene transitions, as well as great places to dance. Clever use of projections moves us seamlessly all over New York City, before we even realize we've moved.

**Company** is a great show and I urge everyone to see it. Sondheim is one of the great geniuses of American Musical Theatre. His list of awards goes on for pages. To highlight a few, he's garnered eight Tonys (more than any other composer), gotten Laurence Olivier and Drama Desk Awards year after year, received an Academy Award, and picked up a Pulitzer prize along the way -- the honors just don't stop. In 2010 the Henry Miller theatre, an esteemed Broadway house, was renamed the Sondheim theatre.

Once again, **Company** is definitely worth seeing. It's a great show, written by a true master of musical theatre, and beautifully staged in this production.

**Company**, through Sept. 12. SFPlayhouse 450 Post Street (2nd Floor of Kensington Park Hotel) between Mason and Powell. Tickets: Box Office 415-677-9596 Fax: 415-677-9597 Online: <http://sfplayhouse.org/sfph/get-tickets> Tues-Wed-Thurs 7pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm, (some) Sundays 2pm.

## September Birthdays

Danielle Joseph	September 3
Barbara Spencer	September 11
Robin Brasso	September 13
Linda Chapman	September 16
Nora Lee	September 18
Mary Worth	September 18
Jill Fenton	September 20
Mona Chasemian	September 20
Kathleen Kennedy	September 23
Dawn Wilkes	September 23
Janice Gonsalves	September 24
Kathy Traynor	September 24
Mardi Kildebeck	September 25
Jane Hansen	September 30

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**September 2015**

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

*There are no shortcuts to anyplace worth going*  
**Beverly Sills**



**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](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 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.

