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October 2015

President’s Message

Andrea and I attended a women’s film festival that was presented as part of the Women’s Intercultural Network weekend celebrating 20 years since the Beijing call for action. Our own Kathleen Cha organized the film fest, which showed 13 films of varying lengths. The films were supplied by Women Make Movies (wmm.com), a nonprofit media arts organization that facilitates the production, promotion, distribution and exhibition of independent films and videotapes by and about women. One of the films followed a young undocumented woman attending UC Berkeley as the first in her family. Her family still depended on her to translate for them, requiring many phone calls between classes and studies. It was a haunting and moving film. As usual, Kathleen Cha did a magnificent job putting this film fest together.

On a different subject, the California Legislature passed, and the Governor promised to sign, the Fair Pay Act, which strengthens the state’s existing equal pay law by eliminating loopholes that prevent effective enforcement and empowering employees to discuss pay without fear of retaliation. Unless a woman is aware of what others are making, it is impossible for her to know whether she is being fairly paid. This legislation, sponsored by Equal Rights Advocates and supported by AAUW, was one of the bills we lobbied for in Sacramento.

The Northern California Fall Funds Luncheon will be held on Friday, October 25, in Danville at the Crow Canyon Country Club. This year’s grant and fellowship recipients will be introduced and honored. It is always enlightening to hear about

the range of subjects being studied. More information about the luncheon may be found at the state website, aauw-ca.org. Please contact Andrea or Kelly if you are interested in attending and being reimbursed by the branch for the cost.

Andrea Laudate and Barbara Spencer, Co-Presidents

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, October 14**, at Corrine Sacks' condo, 1835 Franklin St. #401 (between Sacramento and Clay). Street parking should be available, but if there is a problem, pull into the driveway of the condo building, tell the attendant you are visiting Corrine, and ask if there is space to park. Call Corrine at 415-292-4130 if you have questions. The potluck will begin at 6:30 pm, and the meeting will start at 7pm. Please let Andrea know if you are unable to attend.

Afternoons With Books

Date: Friday, October 16 at 1:30 p.m.
Book/Author: Gutenberg’s Apprentice, by Alix Christie
Hostess: Terese Terry, 850 Powell .
Please RSVP to Terese at 415-800-7081 or Terese.Terry@yahoo.com

International Book Group

Date: Monday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: The Paris Wife, by Paula McLain

Hostess: Mary Gravers, 2901 Broderick St.

Please RSVP to Mary at 415-563-3610 or

marygraves@comcast.net

International Dinner

Location: *La Vie*, Vietnamese Cuisine,
5830 Geary Boulevard, between 22nd and 23rd
Avenues

Date: Thursday, October 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Details and menu will follow by email

Ballot Issues Night 10-19-15

Event: Joel Engardio will discuss the issues on the
November 3 ballot

Location: At the home of Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona
Street at Taraval

Date and Time: Monday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Sheila at wawonast@earthlink.net

Tech Trek

August 30th saw our Welcome Back Party at the SF Exploratorium. We thank Deirdre Araujo and The Volunteers and staff at the Exploratorium for making it an exceptional day for 2015 Tech Trek Campers, Tech Trek Alums, families, teachers and AAUW Members. We had a record turnout of 70 people. We also thank the AAUW Board members, Nora Lee, David Lee, Shannon Lee, the AAUW Tech Trek Committee Members and all those who shared their experiences of being a part of Tech Trek as campers, teachers, AAUW members and Alums.

The AAUW program schedule was announced and people not members were encouraged to join, thank you Nancy Shapiro for signing up new members. I'm sure we forgot many folks and I apologize for this. Know you are appreciated by the program.

Thank you,

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator

ATTENTION MOVIE FANS

Ever go to a movie and wish there were someone to discuss it with afterwards? We are forming a movie group to meet occasionally when there is something good playing. The idea is to have an email list of those interested in being part of the group. A point person would identify a movie time and place and a cafe to go to after the movie. We would get ourselves to the movie at the time and place for the movie, watch it, and then meet at a designated cafe afterwards for discussion and snacks. Marlene Forde has agreed to serve as the point person. If you are interested in being part of this group, please email Marlene at marlene.casey@yahoo.com. She will put you on the list and email you when a good movie is showing at a good location.

Violet the Survivor

Pat Camerena

During her long and adventurous life, Violet Jessop survived many, many life threatening experiences, more than one would expect in a single lifetime. Her Irish family moved to Argentina in the late 1880s hoping to start a sheep ranch. Economic misfortunes dashed this aspiration. Violet's father died when she was a teenager.

While growing up, Violet and her younger siblings suffered through all kinds of life threatening illnesses. Several of her younger brothers and sisters did not survive. Violet herself was not expected to recover from tuberculosis. Out of necessity her mother moved the family back to England to be nearer to family, but feared that the damp air would play havoc with Violet's lungs. To augment her limited income, Violet's mother took a job as a ship's stewardess. Violet's health actually improved. She continued her education desiring to be a nurse, influenced by all the illnesses suffered by her siblings and her own poor health. When her mother's health became too fragile for her to work, Violet herself went to work as a governess. But this job paid poorly, so she applied to also become a ship stewardess. Young and attractive, she soon discovered that shipping lines did not want to hire her because she might "distract" the crew and passengers. Revamping her wardrobe so as to appear "frumpy" and removing any cosmetics did the trick. Violet was soon hired.

Working at sea amounted to a lot of physical labor, long hours, inadequate job training, sea sickness, and unwanted advances by both crew members and passengers alike. However, after a while, Violet began to receive good recommendations, and proved her worth. Taking a position with the White Star Line, she made many Atlantic crossings. In 1910, she was chosen to serve on the maiden voyage of the steamship Olympic. The ship collided with another vessel suffering extensive damages but Violet survived uninjured. Once again in 1912, Violet was hand selected to be part of the crew on the maiden voyage of another luxurious steamship which was considered unsinkable. Yes, Violet was aboard the Titanic when she struck an iceberg. Violet was instructed to board lifeboat #16 to demonstrate to reluctant passengers that it was indeed safe as well as necessary to do so. Someone actually handed her a baby for safekeeping. Surviving this terrifying ordeal, Violet continued to serve aboard

other passenger ships. She was assigned to another White Star Line vessel, the Britannic. When WWII came along, Violet who had joined the British Red Cross and trained as a nurse, was again assigned to the Britannic which had been converted to a hospital ship. Sure enough, while Violet was aboard, the Britannic, while sailing near Greece, was sunk by a mine. While calmly sitting in a life boat as the ship went down with its propellers still turning, Violet had to jump overboard as the lifeboat was sucked under. Struggling to the surface, her head struck something hard. Years later while being treated for a toothache, Violet discovered that she had actually suffered a skull fracture. After her rescue from the Britannic sinking, Violet continued to serve aboard many ships, including five world cruises, without encountering any more disasters, later working ashore as a nurse until she was in her 60s. She lived peacefully in England raising chickens and gardening until she was in her 80s.

She did write her memoirs in the 1930s, but they were not published until years after her death, when her nieces discovered them, they had them published to good reviews. Today Violet Jessop's incredible adventurous life survives in paperback form on Amazon.

www.todayifoundout.com

www.encyclopedia-titanica.org

www.biography.com.

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

It's looking to be a glorious theatre season for us San Franciscans. This month brought **Between Riverside and Crazy** at ACT's Geary theater, New Conservatory's **For the Love of Comrades**, Berkeley Rep's **Amelie**, Marin Theatre Company's **The Oldest Boy**, (maybe the best thing we'll see this entire year) and an astounding revival of **The**

Phantom of the Opera. This reviewer is purring with delight!

Where to start – two brilliant productions are a good place.

Steven Guirgis's **Between Riverside and Crazy** closed 9/27, but I'd be remiss not to say a few words about it. Winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, with a knock out performance by Carl Lumbly, **Riverside** is a shining light in this season's theatre line up. Sooner or later, it will be produced again -- when it is don't miss it!

Marin Theatre Company's **The Oldest Boy**, knocked my socks off. Imagine you're a middle class white American woman, mother of a three year old boy, married to a Buddhist restaurant owner from Tibet. One day the doorbell rings, and there stand two Tibetan lamas, come to tell you your son is the incarnation of a lama, and they are there to take him to a monastery in Nepal. What would you do? Two time Pulitzer nominee playwright Sarah Ruhl asks us to examine our hearts, our beliefs, and the meaning of family, in this fascinating play. Rich with traditions from non-Eurocentric theatre, such as that the three year old is a life size puppet, manipulated by two visible puppeteers (much like the ¾ life size puppets of Japanese Bunraku, which utilizes three puppeteers). At first it all seems incredible, but it becomes clear the child IS the incarnation and the parents are left with an agonizing decision to make.

It's hard to explain how wonderful the play is. I read reviews, read "puppet", read "incarnation of lama" and groaned. Sounded contrived and awful. Turned out to be the best thing I've seen in years. I urge you not to miss it!

The Oldest Boy, Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, through Oct. 11.

Tickets: Box Office 415-388-5209 Online: <https://tickets.marintheatre.org>
Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Wed 7:30pm, Sun 7pm, Wed, Sun 2pm.

Berkeley Rep's **Amelie** is a charming lighthearted romp through the mind of a young woman who wants to bring joy to everyone around her, but is afraid to find it for herself. Based on the French movie of the same name, which starred Audrey Tautou, much touted at the time as the French Audrey Hepburn, this **Amelie** is a musical version. The script and music are entertaining, the set is delightful, the acting quite perfect for the script. It's a charming way to escape the world for a little while and float off in a fairy tale setting.

Amelie, through Oct.18. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley
Tickets: Box office: 510 647-2949 Online <http://www.berkeleyrep.org>
Tues – Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm, Sat., Sun, 2pm.

New Conservatory Theatre Center's **For the Love of Comrades** is a true story, previously told in the movie, **Pride**. It's about the years long coal miners' strike in Great Britain, and the surprising support provided by the gay/lesbian community. Coal miners tend to be a macho lot, being supported by a bunch of "sissies and dykes" was abhorrent to many of them, but they soon learned that people are people regardless of their sexual orientation, and that their gay/lesbian supporters could be the best friends they had, as well as being powerful fund raisers. Eventually, the strike was settled. The next big struggle was gay rights. After years of controversy, gay rights were established in Britain, with the biggest support coming from – you guessed it -- the Coal Miners Union. **For the Love...** is entertaining, thought provoking, well written and directed, and beautifully acted. After I saw it I watched the movie – no comparison – the play was much better.

For the Love of Comrades, New Conservatory Theatre Center
 25 Van Ness Avenue at Market, San Francisco, CA 94102 Box
 Office [415.861.8972](tel:415.861.8972) Email@nctcsf.org Online b.o.
www.nctcsf.org/shows

Finally, the already closed **Phantom of the Opera**.
 It was a great production. This was the fourth time
 I've seen it – but it was compelling as the first time.
 I don't think I ever appreciated the beauty of the
 music, the extravagance of the characters and
 emotions. I bought the CD so I can hear it in the
 car, and each time I listen I hear nuances I'd
 missed. I normally wouldn't have mentioned it
 here, but it will come back, and even if you've
 already seen it, it's really worth seeing again.

New Members

Karla Bobadilla
 Marlene Forde

October Birthdays

Carol Robinson	October 1
Cathy Corcoran	October 3
Joyce Bowe	October 4
Harriet Sollod	October 10
Michelle Mammini	October 13
Sandra Chaves	October 14
Linda Rudolph	October 19
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.

Help Wanted!!!

Tech Trek is hurting from its very success. In order
 to continue to send our girls to camp, Elaine needs
 all of us to commit to helping in the year-long
 process. SHE CANNOT DO IT ALONE!
 We will be listing the kinds of help needed, and
 when it is needed. Please donate as much time as
 you can to keep this program a success.

For the next several months, this is what we need
 to do. Note that none of the tasks will take an
 inordinate amount of time, so please contact Elaine
 Butler to sign up to help **right now!**
Elainebutler124@comcast.net , or call her at 415-
 826-3172.

November:

- Teacher Nomination forms emailed to
 math/science teachers SFUSD
- New contacts need to be made with teachers at
 non-nominating schools via email and phone

December:

- Receive and enter returned teacher nominations
 into Excel worksheet as they arrive.

January:

- Follow up with teachers to determine all
 nominations are received.
- End of January Parent information night date to
 be determined.
- Attend event to help with set-up and clean-up,
 answer questions.
- Take names and emails of students wanting to
 apply at meeting
- Email applications to those signed up.

Your help will make the continuation of this
 program possible. **CALL SOON!**

In Memory

Anna Rind, who passed away last week at the age of 97 had a long association with AAUW. I met her when she was involved in the Adopt A School Program that was active during the terms of Pat Szumowski and Deirdre Araujo and Kathleen Cha (1995-1998). She continued to volunteer at the school after AAUW was no longer involved in the program. She also provided tech trek financial support and was a committee. When she reached her 90s, I asked if she was continuing in this capacity. She said she had to limit her volunteer activities to her church, She continued to volunteer there and sing in the choir until her recent death. I remember her well.

Elaine Butler

Mark Your Calendar

San Francisco Assn of Women In Science

sfAWIS Networking Social

Join sfAWIS members for a fun evening of networking!

Networking is a great way to meet new people and strengthen existing relationships, hone your “elevator pitch,” share advice, learn about career opportunities, hear new perspectives, and learn more about AWIS.

This event is open to all scientists and non-scientists. You do not need to be an AWIS member to attend.

Appetizers provided.

WHEN

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

6:00-8:00 pm

COST

Free. Please register via Eventbrite

<<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sfawis-networking-social-tickets-18879935395>> by Monday October 12, 2015.

WHERE

Sens Restaurant

4 Embarcadero Center

San Francisco

Near Embarcadero BART station.

AAUW Web Pages

News Page & Media Alerts:

<http://www.aauw.org/press/>

Actions to take: <http://bit.ly/1wQ0GbL>

Mission in Action: www.aauwaction.org/

US Congressional Voting Record:

<http://bit.ly/1jKYsjJ>

State Directory

AAUW CA Directory is posted in searchable PDF format. Both documents can be found in the Forms & Documents section, under Branch Administration, [HERE](#). Hard copies of the directory are available for purchase. Send your request, with a \$10 check to AAUW CA Office, 1331 Garden Hwy, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833.

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October 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 Ballot Issues 7 PM	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Int'l Books 7PM	27	28	29 Int'l Dinner 7PM	30	31

The weak are picked off and the strong will remain and never go under.
Anne Frank



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.