

A monthly publication of AAUW, San Francisco, est. in 1886

February 2016

President's Message

January was a month of "Let's Get Together." We started off with an informational meeting at the Taraval Police Station Community Room for potential Tech Trek applicants and their families. It was a packed house with standing room only. Several former Tech Trekkers spoke about their experiences, and the excitement was palpable.

Moving on to our board meeting, we discussed having an AAUW movie meeting once a month to view films promoting AAUW goals and missions — that is, films dealing with issues involving women and girls. The screenings would be at Peggy Kavounas's house. The first tentative date is March 6th. Contact Andrea for more information.



Congresswoman Jackie Spear, a longtime AAUW member, speaking at the North Peninsula Branch luncheon celebrating the branch's 60th anniversary.

Andrea and Barbara attended the North Peninsula Branch Diamond Jubilee luncheon celebration in San Mateo. The branch went all-out and had a number of public officials as guests. A highlight was hearing from Representative Jackie Spear who is a member of the North Peninsula Branch and supports legislation promoting AAUW goals. She is currently pushing legislation to finally enact The Equal Rights Amendment. Rep. Spear also mentioned local efforts to curtail human trafficking that resulted in some criminal charges being brought. In addition to Rep. Spear, we heard from Carolyn Garfein, Immediate Past President, National AAUW, who reminded us of how things stood 60 years ago and how much more there is to do. The women's pay gap has improved, but women on average still make only 79 cents to the \$1 made by men. Garfein reminded us that the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed seven years ago. AAUW was there front and center for the signing. AAUW is a player on the national scene in supporting legislation and litigation for equity for women and girls.

Andrea Laudate and Barbara Spencer, Co-Presidents

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, February 10**, 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, February 19 at 1:30 p.m.
Book/Author: Dear Life, by Alice Munro
Hostess: Pat Metzgar, 110 Steiner St.
 Please RSVP to Pat at 510-410-8772 or merhabametz@gmail.com

International Book Group

Date: Monday, February 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Book/Author: My Brilliant Friend, by Elena Ferrante
Hostess: Jane Hansen, 601 Van Ness, Apt. #326
 Please RSVP to Jane at 415-225-6985 or jhansen2000@yahoo.com

Mark your Calendar International Dinner

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 6 PM
Place: Pagan Restaurant, Burmese and Thai Cuisine, 3199 Clement at 33rd Avenue
To reserve: Contact Nancy at 415-731-2654 or nancy.shapiro@comcast.net

Tech Trek

The informational Meeting this month was a great success. We had many families seeking information about the Tech Trek program. The alumnae presenters did a fantastic job of making their tech trek experiences come alive for the audience. Nora handled this event and did it with attention to details and was gracious and knowledgeable. Thank you to Andrea and Barbara, who spoke to the

AAUW development of the Tech Trek Program and AAUW's role in advancing education, equal pay and gender equity for women and girls. Several other AAUW members on the Tech Trek Committee assisted with set-up and clean-up as did the alumnae. We thank everyone who helped make this informational event happen for the third year, especially, Nora Lee.

We are currently collecting Teacher Nominations and will be emailing application packets to all nominated girls. We are expecting applicants representing first time schools and the great diversity of San Francisco.

Help is needed for the interview process scheduled for the weekend of **March 12 and 13**. We have two shifts each day during 10-4 hours of interviews. . The shifts are 10-1 and 1-4. The jobs needed are: Door manager, family interviewer, and applicant interviewers. Those interviewing the students will be doing the interview with another AAUW member and 1 or 2 alumnae.

Please join us for this exciting opportunity to get to know some bright 7th grade girls with strong interests in STEM. **WE need you so call or email me to volunteer for a shift.**

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator, 415-305-2220 or elainebutler124@comcast.net

A request from the State AAUW Tech Trek Coordinator:

We have need of a Live Scan Coordinator for this year's camps. According to Christine King, who has done this job the past couple of years, it takes 30-40 hours (total) from late February until July. Unfortunately, she is unable to continue due to time constraints from her "real job."

Here is the job description from the AAUW California Tech Trek Policies and Procedures:

The Live Scan coordinator is certified by the state as the sole member of AAUW CA receiving results

from Live Scan background checks. All persons who would ever be alone with a Tech Trek camper must undergo the background check that involves digital fingerprinting. This would include camp directors, nurses, core teachers, dorm mothers and any counselors 18 or older.

Qualifications:

1. AAUW CA member.
2. Efficient record keeping.
3. Able to pass the FBI check.

Duties:

1. Maintain list of potential staff members, sent by the camp directors, having the Live Scan procedure.
2. Notify camp directors when each name is approved.
3. Keep approval documentation securely.
4. Send the camp directors the forms and instructions on how to fill them out each year in the spring.

If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Linda Stinebaugh lstinebaugh@verizon.net
State Project Coordinator, AAUW California Tech Trek

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator

Memoir Club

Jumpstart Your Memoir

Have you been holding back on the desire to write your own story? Are you unsure how to start? Does it feel like a burning, yet monumental project? Is there a voice in you that longs to find

expression? Join us for a simple approach to telling your story. We'll look at the genre, explore the craft, and experience in-class writing as a tool to begin the journey. Reading list provided. Memoirists will make guest appearances: Amy Peele from San Rafael wrote "Aunt Mary's Guide to Raising Children" and Ron Jones from San Francisco wrote "Life in the Sunset." Also, Lynn Cook Henrikson's wrote "Tell Tale Soul: Writing the Mother Memoir." All three authors are warm, engaging and excellent speakers.

Place: Folio Bookstore, 24th, Noe Valley (may change depending on number of attendees.)

Dates: Tuesdays or Thursdays, definitely twelve weeks, but can be ongoing. Can begin as early as February 16th.

Time: 10AM to 12 noon or possibly 1 to 3PM (whichever most of the group desires)

Facilitator: Christie Nelson, certified adult ed. teacher and Memoirist, and author of the memoir, "My Movable Feast".

Please email Pat Morin at morinpatr@aol.com if interested.

Date and Time: to be determined. Group limited to ten.

Silver Jubilee

The San Francisco AAUW Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund will offer two scholarships for \$2000 each to help upper division and graduate women to complete their final year of study in a college or university. Candidates must live or be attending a university or college within a 100 mile distance of San Francisco. There is no restriction on the use of the funds. Applications will be due, Friday, April 29, 2016. **If you are interested or know relatives who may benefit from this scholarship, please**

check the Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund on The AAUW SF website at www.aauwsf.org. The application process may be done on line.

If there are any questions, email Mary L. Suter, Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund Chair, marsuter@yahoo.com

The Poet in the Garden **Pat Camarena**

After Anne Bannister married Edward Spencer, a fellow classmate at the Virginia Seminary in 1901, they settled down to raise their three children in Lynchburg, Virginia. Anne loved to write poetry and work in her garden. During the next thirty years, she and her husband befriended many of the luminaries in the African American community of writers whose talents were becoming recognized. This time of cultural blooming was called the Harlem Renaissance. Many prolific artists such as Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson visited the Spencer's house and lovely garden in Lynchburg. It was Johnson who introduced Anne to H.L. Mencken who helped her publish her first poem. She later declined his patronage. Most of her poems were published during the 1920s in the period's most prestigious collections of African American poetry. One of her last poems was published in 1948 in an anthology called *The Poetry of the Negro*, by Langston Hughes and Arna Bontemps. Not only did Anne write but she also worked earnestly with the NAACP and helped launch the organization's Lynchburg chapter in 1918. Her private garden continued to draw visitors such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Paul Robeson, and Maya Angelou. For awhile much of her writings were lost but some have been rediscovered in the latter part of the 20th century and are now included on college literature reading lists. Her themes of the human search for beauty and meaning in an often confusing world and mankind's attempts to impose order on the world still have meaning today. Anne Spencer now holds a significant place in the list of Black

American women writers of the last century. Her house and garden are lovingly maintained to this day and are open to the public.
www.annespencermuseum.com
www.english.illinois.edu
www.aaregistry.org

Playing Now **Paula Campbell**

Three great shows to talk about today. Let's start with ACT's **Satchmo at the Waldorf**. A tour de force one man show, featuring John Douglas Thompson as Louis Satchmo Armstrong, with brief moments as his manager Joe Glaser, and as trumpeter Miles Davis, this is a don't miss it show. Playwright Terry Teachout gives us Satchmo as an old man, near the end of his life and career, looking back and remembering. We relive his successes, failures, relationships, all in amazing detail.

Teachout has done rigorous research which allows us entry to parts of Satchmo's life hitherto unexplored. Satchmo's success in a country which previously hadn't allow black entertainers to achieve anything like this, his reliance on his manager who actually paved the way by working with the mob, which at that time controlled the venues, his great love for his wife Lucille, and the scorn he faced in late years from young, angry young black performers like Miles Davis who called him an Uncle Tom, are relived in vivid detail.

John Douglas Thompson is marvelous – he doesn't capture Satchmo, he IS Satchmo. One person shows are hard to do – I've written one which I've performed, so I know firsthand. **Satchmo at the Waldorf** was like an acting lesson for me – how to keep an audience engaged and rapt, with only one actor on stage. This is a marvelous evening of theatre – you'll be rapt too.

Satchmo at the Waldorf ends Feb. 7, so you don't have much time. Get your tickets now!

Satchmo at the Waldorf, through Feb 7. ACT, 415 Geary St.
Ticket: Box Office 749-2228 online <http://www.act-sf.org>
Tues – Sat 8pm, Wed, Sun 2pm.

Next up is Marin Theatre Company's production of August Wilson's **Gem of the Ocean**. Wilson is the most important and prominent African-American playwright of our time. He's a recipient of two Pulitzers, seven New York Drama Critics Circle Awards, numerous Tonys, Oliviers, Rockefeller and Guggenheim Fellowships, a National Humanities Medal, and a Broadway theatre (The August Wilson, on 52 St.) was named in his honor after his death in 2005. Wilson has been discussed in this column before – it's impossible to say enough about him.

Wilson's plan was to write one play for each decade of the 20th century, characterizing black life during that time, though he didn't write them in chronological order. He grew up in Pittsburgh PA, and his plays are site specific to that area. **Gem of the Ocean**, set in 1904, is the last play he wrote. It's filled with spiritualism, mysticism, and the down to earth nitty gritty of living in that time period. Beautifully directed by Daniel Alexander Jones, and exquisitely acted by a wonderful ensemble, featuring Margo Hall as Aunt Ester, who is, btw, 258 years old, the play is fascinating, gripping, and exciting. With intermission the play is 2 hours and 45 minutes, but it doesn't feel that way – time flies.

This production of **Gem of the Ocean** was years in the making. It's a perfect gem – pun intended. Definitely a don't miss production!

Gem of the Ocean, Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, through Feb. 14.
Tickets: Box Office 415-388-5209 Online
<https://tickets.marintheatre.org/Online>

Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Wed 7:30pm, Sun 7pm, Wed, Sun 2pm.

Last but not least let's take a look into the future, where the internet has evolved into The Nether, which is also the title of this startling, controversial production at the SFPlayhouse.

The Nether is set in an unspecified future, hard to date exactly, but one in which trees are a rarity – most varieties no longer exist. The play is beautifully directed by Bill English, and Nina Ball's set is beyond amazing.

Author Jennifer Haley posits a world in which we can enter entirely realistic, detailed down to the wallpaper and bric-a-brac, fantasy worlds in the Nether and play out our deepest, darkest desires. In this case, the fantasies in question are having sex with children, and murdering children. An unnamed quasi police agency has discovered this site, The Hideway, and wants to shut it down. Should it be shut down – or does it provide an important service, allowing dark impulses to be fulfilled in cyberspace so that they aren't a danger in real space. Who are these people – are they twisted souls, or loving souls? And the force that wants to shut them down – who are they – what are their true motivations?

The Nether is expertly acted, with special mention of Warren David Keith, Louis Parnell, and Carmen Steele who plays Iris, the child, a role that alternates with another child actress. From what I knew of **The Nether** before I saw it I expected an intellectual exercise in morality. Was I wrong – this is a play filled with emotion, with passionate feeling, with love and regret. To my surprise I found my eyes filled with tears when the play ended.

I think I may go back to see it again, just to be sure I didn't miss anything the first time. **The Nether** is an intensely moving, provocative, touching play –

absolutely too good to miss – so do get tickets and see for yourself what I mean.

The Nether, through March 5. 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: <https://sfplayhouse.org/sfph/get-tickets/> Tues-Wed-Thurs 7pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm, (some) Suns 2pm.

New Members

Anna Stern
Mary Renner
Linda Calhoun

Ladies That Lunch

For those who are celebrating Chinese New Year, we have been trying out lunch in restaurants around the city. We began with Dim Sum at Golden River, which has had a presence in the Richmond for many years. To our surprise (and delight) it has been redecorated, and now is sparkly clean with subdued décor. They have also revamped and upgraded the menu to include many more dim sum items as well as more noodle dishes. (Whether this is due to the influx of younger people, or the competition from new upscale restaurants, I neither know nor care.)

We tried a variety of their offerings, and found them all tasty and well presented. I was surprised by their turnip cake, which can be bland, and here it was very flavorful. We will have to return to try

more of the offerings, including some of the entrees.

Golden River: 5827 Geary Blvd. (22nd st and 23rd st)
415-668-5105

On another note, we tried a Chinese restaurant on Polk, the third in as many years. Little Kitchen was almost empty at lunchtime, but the menu was surprising in its offerings. Among the offerings were Potstickers, which were light and flavorful, good soups, and an excellent lamb in brown sauce. They do spicy well, making it tasty as well as hot! Their delivery is relatively quick and reliable.

Little Kitchen: 2401 Polk St at Union
415-922-5526

February Birthdays

Caitlin Barker	February 2
Margel Kaufman	February 8
Marilyn Leal	February 10
Corrine Sacks	February 25

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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February 2016

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

It's never too late to be what you might have been.
 George Eliot



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.