

President's Message

April was a busy month for us. First, Andrea and her Tech Trek alum helper Marta put together table decorations for 28 tables for the State Convention in San Mateo. The theme of the decorations was Tech Trek, and our branch received many kudos for them. In fact, another branch bought some of them.



Next, Andrea and Barbara attended the state convention April 15-17. We placed the decorations on the tables, removed them after the event and then replaced them again for the next event. In between these efforts, we attended workshops, dinners and luncheons, and chatted with many attendees.

Highlights of the convention were seeing the three Speech Trek finalists give their presentations. They were all very impressive.



Tech Trek Finalists

Another highlight was hearing Aileen Rizo speak at the public policy luncheon. Aileen is being supported by our Legal Advocacy Fund in her litigation against the Fresno County Office of Education for pay inequality. Ms. Rizo told her story of learning that other less qualified men were being paid more than she and her long and complicated struggle to obtain relief. She was at the luncheon with her family, and told us that her young daughters tell anyone who asks that their mom is seeking equal pay for equal work! She is a compelling advocate for equal pay.



Aileen Rizo, Speaker at state convention public policy luncheon, along with her family

Finally, Barbara and fellow board member Mary Suter attended the Alliance For Girls annual conference on Year of the Girl. Our branch is a member of the Alliance, which now boasts 115 organizational and individual members. There were a number of AAUW-SF members in attendance representing various organizations. We heard from many speakers who challenged us to rethink our world view. A distressing number of girls of color do not finish high school, and there are many who now speak of it as “pushout” instead of “dropout” as a result of unequal and unthinking school discipline. An example that caught my attention was a high school girl’s question of why no one ever warns boys against becoming teenage dads. The keynote speaker was Peggy Orenstein who has written a new book titled, *Girls and Sex*. She talked with many girls about sex and was dismayed to learn about the inequality involved. There is definitely a need for intimate justice.



Keynote speaker Peggy Orenstein, at Alliance for Girls Conference. She is the author of many books on women and girls, including her new best-seller *Girls and Sex*

AAUW has published a new report, *Barriers and Bias; The Status of Women in Leadership*. Quoting from the report’s foreword: “Despite gains in every profession, women remain underrepresented at all levels of leadership. In Congress, on corporate boards, and in our nation’s college and universities, male leaders outnumber female leaders by considerable margins. . . . Stereotypes and bias are among the leading obstacles to women’s leadership.” This lack of

female representation in leadership roles was discussed in every event we attended this month. A copy of the new report may be found on the aauw.org website.

Finally, keep in mind the Tech Trek send-off party at Sports Basement on May 21 and the branch installation luncheon at the South Beach Yacht Club on June 18. Invitations will be distributed by email and snail mail.

Andrea Laudate and Barbara Spencer, Co-Presidents

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, May 11**, 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 Barbara know if you are unable to attend.

Afternoons With Books

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

Book/Author: *Dear Life*, by Alice Munro

Hostess: Pat Metzgar, 110 Steiner St.

Please RSVP to Pate at 510-410-8772 or merhabametz@gmail.com

International Book Group

Date: Monday, May 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: *Gutenberg’s Apprentice*, by Alix Christie

Hostess: Paula Campbell, 338 Ewing Terrace

Please RSVP to Paula at 415-567-1330 or
campbellp@usfc.edu

Save the Date

AAUW-SF Branch Installation Lunch

Saturday, June 18 at 11:30

South Beach Yacht Club, 2 floor

Please contact Andrea by June 11 at
mamalaudate@gmail.com or at 415-862-6789, and
join your fellow members in an afternoon of
celebration and connecting.

MENU

First Course

*Arugula, kale and butter lettuce with Balsamic
honey vinaigrette with raspberries and Fontina*

2nd Course: Choose one

Grilled King Salmon

Roast Loin of Beef

Pasta Primavera (Vegetarian)

Desert

Strawberries Grand Marnier

Make your check for **\$35** out to AAUW-SF
Put your menu choice on the check.

There is parking on site (\$10) and is accessible by N
or T lines (ballpark 2nd stop).

Women in the Maritime

Our second annual Women in Maritime Trades is
coming up! Please join us for afternoon tea on
Saturday, May 14, at 1:00 pm
Maritime Museum, 900 Beach Street at Polk

In a panel discussion, women will share their
stories, experiences and accomplishments in
maritime trades and in careers as captain, officer,
pilot and more.

The museum is accessible by a ramp and the
meeting is in the Blue Room on the main floor.

Special Price for AAUW is \$5

Contact Andrea to let her know you are coming:

mamalaudate@gmail.com or
415-864-6789

Tech Trek

We are so excited to gain 2 more camp spots for
the 2016 summer. Instead of sending 13 girls, we
will be sending 15 again. Many thanks to the camp
directors for finding the additional spaces for San
Francisco and several other branches. Now it is
time to celebrate our campers with a glorious
send-off party.

This event will happen on **May 21st** instead of May
14th as previously announced. We will begin at
**2PM at the Sport's Basement Store at 1590 Bryant
St in San Francisco**. There is parking under the
store. The entrance to parking is on Florida Street.

Please come and meet this year's campers and
share some light refreshments. RSVP to Elaine
Butler at 415-826-3172 or
elainebutler124@comcast.net if you do not RSVP
you are welcome to join us on the day of the event.

Elaine Butler and Nora Lee

From a Tech Trek Alum

We received this from one of Tech Trek alums from
2013:

Firstly, I wanted to personally thank AAUW
members for sparking my interest in the STEM field
with the Tech Trek Program. Because of Tech
Trek, I, along with three of my close friends,
formed a team and entered UC Berkeley's
Bioengineering High School Competition (BioEHSC)

earlier this semester. After six weeks of frequent team meetings and countless hours of preparation, we, Lowell Team B, were finally ready to show the world our research project. On Saturday, April 9, 2016, we became the first place winners in the Synthetic Biology Category!!

This is a photo of my team with the former Department Chair of Bioengineering, Dr. Dorian Liepmann, and our AP Biology teacher, Mr. Theodore Johnson. Please spread the word to other Tech Trek girls about this competition-- it is truly an amazing opportunity for them to explore the realm of bioengineering.

Sincerely,
Angelica Lee



P.S. I'm the girl with the plaid skirt and curly hair. I was featured in the Sunset Beacon newspaper a few years ago regarding my experience at Tech Trek

Doing Justly Pat Camarena

The holder of several "firsts" in the field of law, Utah Territory born Florence Allen initially studied for a musical career in Berlin for several years after her graduation from Case Western Reserve. Returning to the states, she had a change of heart, returning to Ohio to complete her master's degree in political science and applying to law school. Her father had been a lawyer and congressman. After several Ohio law school rejections based on her sex, she was able to earn her law degree from New York City University Law School while supporting

herself as a social worker. She also lent her legal services to the National College Women's Equal Suffrage League. Back in Cleveland, she opened her own law office after finding it hard to find a position in an already established law firm. In 1919, before women had the vote, she was appointed assistant prosecutor for Cleveland's Cuyahoga County. During the next year's election in which women were first able to vote, Florence was elected to a local judgeship. With incredible self-confidence and a strong grassroots support from the newly enfranchised women citizens, she soon ran for a seat on the Ohio State Supreme Court. Re-elected by another wide margin in 1928, Florence became the first woman to sit on a state court of last resort. In 1934, FDR appointed her to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Florence was the first woman to fill such a post. Here she stayed for the next twenty-five years serving as Chief Justice before her retirement. She was selected to head the three judge federal tribunal that decided the constitutionality of the Tennessee Valley Authority. At various times while on the federal appellate bench, she had been considered as a strong candidate for the U.S. Supreme Court. Although Florence Allen certainly excelled in her long legal career and potentially a good choice, no president actually appointed a woman to the Supreme Court until President Reagan chose Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981.

The percentage of women serving as full-time judges on federal district courts and courts of appeal has more than quadrupled since Sandra Day O'Connor's appointment. According to recent data from the Federal Judicial Center, women now make up approximately 235 of the 772 full-time judges on the U.S. district Courts of Appeal-30.4% of the total. According to recent data from the National Women's Law Center, President Obama has appointed 136 female judges ...more than any president to date. However, only four of the 112 Supreme Court justices ever to serve have been women. Three women currently serve on the

highest court of the land. More women judges could bring a better understanding of the impact of the law on the lives of women and children. Is any woman currently even being considered to round out our current eight sitting justices?

www.ohiohistorycentral.org
www.supremecourt.ohio.gov
www.historytogo.utah.gov

Playing Now **Paula Campbell**

Howard Breton's **Anne Boleyn**, now on the boards at Marin Theatre Company, is a difficult play to review. It falls into the category of plays set in historical times, about historical characters, which attempt to make the audience feel educated, which pretend to give them a leg up intellectually, fooling them into thinking they know more about the subject when they leave the theatre than they did when they entered it. But they don't, not really. All they know is what the writer has decided will make an entertaining story. I recall the popular movie "Shakespeare in Love." People actually believed they'd learned inside info on Shakespeare and his contemporaries from that film. They walked out dropping names – Marlow, Kidd – as if they knew all about these writers. What they failed to understand was that the film was fiction -- the writer's idea about what transpired in Shakespeare's life during the years the film covered. Such is the case with **Anne Boleyn**.

Let's look at this more carefully. Movies, both recent and classic, and TV series portray Anne as an oversexed flirt, a seductress, a girl intent on becoming queen at any cost. And worse yet, a queen who cannot bear a male child. Not so in this play – this Anne is a religious zealot, and a supporter of the common people. When the evil Cromwell finally does her in, it's not because he

sees her as a threat to his influence on the King, but because he's afraid she's going to expose him for swiping the money and treasures he's plundered from the monasteries. When Anne cries "that money was meant for the people, for schools, for food and houses" we get a whole new concept (one that made it difficult for me to keep a straight face) -- Anne Boleyn as social reformer. (As for her inability to produce a male heir, let's remember that Anne was Queen for less than three years and had many years before her in which to bear a male child.) But in fact there's no more historical evidence to support the idea of Anne as crusader than there is to support more commonly held ideas about her. Henry VIII made sure that no trace of her was left after her execution. Every picture of her, large and small, was destroyed; every scrap of writing by her or about her was destroyed. Her clothing, her personal items, her books, everything – destroyed. We have no evidence whatsoever of what she looked like, how she behaved, or what she felt and believed. So it's open field day for writers – but the audience has to realize that what they're seeing is FICTION – presented as if it were fact.

The production itself is a bit spotty, as are the performers' English accents, which tend to come and go. Director Jasson Minadakis has skillfully guided the action and gotten excellent performances from his cast. In particular, main players, Liz Sklar (Anne), Craig Marker (King Henry, King James), Charles Shaw Robinson (Lord Cecil, Cardinal Wolsey), and David Ari (George Villiers, Thomas Cromwell) shine in their roles. The supporting is also excellent. The doubling of characters was confusing to some of the audience – as I learned while eavesdropping on Intermission conversations. When Marker, Scene One's King James came back to the stage as Scene Two's King Henry, some people got lost, then figured it out after a while. But when eight actors double that becomes an awful lot of characters (16) to keep

track of. And the costuming didn't help. The men are mostly in what seems like some version of period costume, with a few modern touches. The women however are in high spike heels and short tight dresses, which are exceptionally awkward for them to kneel in – and the supporting women spend a lot of time on the floor and on their knees. It was a relief when Anne's lady servant finally brought out a long skirt for Anne to step into. But Anne is the only woman clothed that way. The language as well is mostly period, with some modernisms thrown in. Nina Ball's set – a series of flats and arches which with the use of projections serve as both interiors and exteriors is ingenious, and perfectly suits the production.

Anne Boleyn is interesting, beautifully acted, but at almost two and a half hours a wee bit tiring. I'm glad I saw it – would I want to see it again – no!

Anne Boleyn, Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, through May. 15.
 Tickets: Box Office 415-388-5209 Online:
<https://tickets.marintheatre.org>
 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Wed 7:30pm, Sun 7pm, Wed, Sun 2pm.

The Magic Theatre is currently showing Mfoniso Udofia's **Sojourners**. The characters are first generation Nigerian immigrants living near Houston TX. They speak in heavily accented English and also in their native tongue. The fact that they shout their lines for all of Act One doesn't help make what they say any more intelligible. It's unfortunate that the play has an Intermission, since many of the audience used it to make their escape. Act Two has somewhat less shouting. Enough said.

MAKE A LIFETIME GIFT TO AAUW

Have you considered making a legacy gift to AAUW? Your gift will help ensure that the work of AAUW continues long into the future. By providing for AAUW in your estate plans, you can become part of the distinguished AAUW Legacy Circle.

The simplest form of a legacy gift is a bequest, or a gift left to a charity in your will. Bequests often can allow donors to make a sizable gift to a charity that may not have been possible during their lifetime

You can also name AAUW as the beneficiary of your life insurance, bank account, stock account, or retirement plan. In addition to bequests in your will or living trust, charitable gift annuities are available that can provide you with tax savings and income during your lifetime.

For more information, call Catherine Heffernan at the AAUW Planned Giving Office at 877.357.5587 or email her at heffernanc@aauw.org.

May Birthdays

Delores Schoen	May 8
Lois Roberts	May 15
Lisa Aquino	May 15
Phyllis Hunt	May 23

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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May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Maritime Talk:1:00PM
15	16	17	18	19	20 Aft w/Books 1:30 PM	21Tech Trek send-off: 2PM
22	23 Int'l Book Group 7PM	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	30				

Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.

Oscar Wilde



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.