

President’s Message

Thanks to generous donations from our members we are once again sending 15 middle school girls to Tech Trek camp this summer. They will all go to camp at Stanford but at different times. It is a tremendous undertaking to organize the application process, hold the informational meeting, interview the girls and their families, decide who will be chosen, hold a send-off party, and follow up on all of the paperwork. Our hats are off to Elaine Butler and Nora Lee for spearheading the effort. Unfortunately, we must say goodbye to Nora who has told us she must move on to other tasks. We will miss her and owe her a great deal of thanks. Thanks also to our dedicated members who participated in the interview process and who made generous donations. Our Tech Trek party was held on May 21 at the Sports Basement and was very successful. The girls got to know each other, and their parents got to ask questions.



TECH TREK DONATIONS REMINDER

Now that national AAUW has taken over the administration of Tech Trek camps, our donation checks for Tech Trek should be separately made

out to AAUW because they are sent to the national for deposit and acknowledgement of your tax deductible donation. You may put SF Tech Trek in the memo line. Checks are still submitted to Elaine Butler who will send them off to national.

We have a busy schedule of events for June. First, please come to our Awards Luncheon and Annual Meeting at the South Beach Yacht Club on June 18. All members should have received an invitation in the mail. We will be honoring our immediate Past President Cathy Corcoran with the AAUWSF Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award. We will also introduce the Silver Jubilee Scholarship awardees and have some games to play too. The Yacht Club is a beautiful location, and we thank Andrea’s husband John for being our host-member.

On June 25, our branch is hosting the Interbranch Council (IBC) at Andrea’s house. Mark Hopkins, AAUW’S Chief Strategy Officer will be there to fill us in on national matters and to answer questions. It is from 11-2, and there will be a barbecue. Members are welcome to attend, but please let Andrea know if you plan to come.

On the same day, just around the corner from Andrea’s house will be the first meeting of the Saturday Book Club at 2:30 pm. You can make a day of it!

Let’s enjoy our summer—
Andrea Laudate and Barbara Spencer, Co-Presidents

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, June 8**, 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, June 17, at 1:30 p.m.

Book/Author: House of Mirth, by Edith Warton

Hostess: Michelle Mammini, 2520 Greenwich St.

Please RSVP to Michelle at 415-346-9114 or

mmammini@pacbell.net

International Book Group

Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: The Children Act, by Ian McEwan

Hostess: Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona St

Please RSVP to Sheila at 415-664-4985 or

wawonast@earthlink.net

Please note: There will be no International Book Group Meeting in July.

Saturday Book Club

Date: June 25, 2016 at 2:30 p.m.

Book/Author: Sister in Law, by Linda Hirshman

Hostess: Mary & Anna, 1200 18 St on the corner of Mississippi (around the corner from Andrea's)

There are two front doors; go to the black one and ring the top doorbell on the right.

Please RSVP to Mary at 415-255-8234 or

mary.renner2@gmail.com

The July book club is early as this is the only time the author is available.

Date: July 9 at 2:20

Book/Author: Everyone Pays, by Seth Harwood

Hostess: Andrea Laudate, 243 Missouri St.

Please RSVP to Andrea at 415-864-6789 or

mamalaudate@gmail.com

Andrea has 7 copies of the book at \$10 each.

Awards Luncheon and Annual Meeting

When: Saturday, June 18 at 11:30

Where: South Beach Yacht Club, 2 floor of the Harbor Building. Handicapped accessible

Join fellow members in an afternoon of celebration and connecting!

MENU

First Course

Arugula, kale and butter lettuce, with Balsamic honey vinaigrette, 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.

Please contact Andrea by June 11 at

mamalaudate@gmail.com or at 415-862-6789

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

How to get there:

People should car pool if possible!

Parking is \$10 per car to park in gated lot off 2nd Street. There is also metered parking on Embarcadero after 2nd Street.

Do not park on Pier 40 lot at end of Townsend St.

If taking a taxi, or driving set GPS to 899 Second Street, San Francisco 94107 Going towards Ferry building, enter club parking lot by driving towards the water on road to right at end of ballpark - 100 feet after the traffic light at Second Street and King Street. The Ballpark will be on your right and harbor parking gate on your left. Ring the gate buzzer and staff will let you in by telling them you are going to an event at the South Beach Yacht Club.

Muni: N or T line to AT&T Ballpark 2nd Street Stop and follow the directions above. The harbor building is just behind the Giants Scoreboard. Walk 2 blocks towards the water alongside the ballpark when crossing King / Embarcadero.

Call John de Castro at 415-419-4658 if you need more information on the directions.

You Are Invited

The **IBC (International Branch Council)** will be meeting at Andrea's for lunch and a talk with Mark Hopkins, AAUW's Chief Strategy Officer. You are invited to attend to greet, meet, and eat with representatives of the Bay Area AAUW Branches.

Date/Time: June 25, 2016 11am-2pm

Hostess: Andrea Laudate, 243 Missouri St (use the tradesman entrance adjacent to the garage) in the garden!

We will be BBQ ribs, burgers and salmon. Bring a salad, veggie or desert if you choose.

Contact Andrea to let her know you are coming:

mamalaudate@gmail.com or
415-864-6789

Tech Trek

Tech Trek Send-off May 21 at Sports Basement



Angelica Lee, Keynote Speaker

Fourteen out of fifteen girls and their families joined Nora and I, AAUW board members, donors, tech Trek alums and our Tech Trek Alum Keynote Speaker Angelica Lee. Thanks go to them all.



Getting to Know You

Special thanks go to Nora Lee, Shannon Lee and David Lee for planning and implementing this wonderful event. This was Nora's last Tech Trek

event. She has been a coordinator, modestly rejecting the title for most of her 5 years of tireless patient service to this project. She suggested new ways of handling aspects of the project which organized and saved time in doing necessary tasks. We will all miss her. Please think about joining the team. Nora will need to be replaced by more than one person if possible. Contact me, Elaine Butler, 415-305-2220 or Elaine butler124@comcast.net. I will be happy to share the types of tasks that are available, thank you.

May Tech Trek Donations

Peggy Kavounas

Pat Camarena for 15 goodie bags each containing 10 items!

We appreciate your gifts.

Elaine Butler and Nora Lee

Branch Members' Visit Day

COME VISIT AAUW TECH TREK

Where: Stanford: Camp Marie Curie

When: Thursday July 14, 8:30 am - Noon

Your visit will give you a sample of a Tech Trek Camper's day. You will meet the Camp Director, Pat Ivester and her staff, and have an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about Tech Trek and the Stanford Curie camp.

You will also visit the campers in their core classes and see the dorm and other areas on campus used in the program. Along the way, you will enjoy the lovely Stanford campus.

This is a great opportunity to see how the money you earned for camperships is used, to see these young women in action and to know that you are helping them gain knowledge and confidence in STEM.

IF you wish to attend, please send your name, branch, phone # and e-mail address. The number of visitors is limited to a TOTAL of 20 to limit the impact on the camp activities. (And please note that lunch is not included.) Maps and directions will be e-mailed at the end of June. **PLEASE RSVP TO EILEEN BY JUNE 25.**

Eileen Hutchinson, Camp Visit Day Coordinator –
Tech Trek Stanford – Camp Curie
ehutchin@earthlink.net 415-637-9810

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TECH TREK VISIT WILL
INVOLVE A LOT OF WALKING AND STAIRS!

A Lasting Legacy

Pat Camarena

Tuesday, June 14 is a day set aside yearly for all Americans to pause and remember our national flag, its designers, and makers. Our red, white, and blue flag represents our independence and unity as a nation. Our flag has had a proud and glorious history, carried in war and peace, and even planted on the moon. June 14 is also the day that the United States Army celebrates its birthday. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress replaced the British symbols of the Grand Union flag with a new design featuring 13 white stars in a circle on a field of blue and 13 red & white stripes, one for each state. Although it is not certain, this flag may have been made by the Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross, who was an official flag maker for the Pennsylvania Navy. Betsy ran a thriving upholstery business. George Washington is said to have commissioned her to make an American flag in June of 1776. Written evidence supporting this story is scarce. It is remotely possible that Washington and Ross conspired secretly, since independence had not yet been declared. This act could have been considered treason at the time. However, Washington who was assiduous

about honoring women whose aid was invaluable, never mentioned Betsy. In fact, numerous flags were used during the Revolution by various military units. In all probability, Betsy did create at least one flag, for there is a record of payment to her for "ship's colors, etc.", paid not by Washington's Continental Congress, but by the state of Pennsylvania. The very next month on June 14th, Congress adopted a flag of "thirteen stripes in alternate red and white....and thirteen stars." There was no mention of Betsy Ross in connection with this particular flag.

The first written account of the Betsy Ross story was not till almost a hundred years later in Harpers Magazine after Betsy's grandson had spoken to a local historical society. By then no one was alive to confirm or deny his version of her involvement. Soon after the Harper's magazine article circulated, schoolbooks included the story as factual history.

Betsy Ross may indeed have played a role in the evolution of our flag, for she clearly did manufacture "colours". The point that is lost to legend however is that many other women doubtlessly were involved in the sewing of most of the era's several flags. Like Clara Barton and other female historical figures, Betsy Ross has been remembered for something she might not have done at all rather than for her actual accomplishments. She bore seven children. Three times married, she was twice widowed because of the Revolution. She ran a profitable business enterprise, and invested in land. When she died at eighty-four, Betsy Ross left a valuable estate and a successful business-which was run by a daughter.

www.usflag.org
www.ushistory.org
www.biography.com

Playing Now Paula Campbell

SFPlayhouse has done it again with a powerful production of Lolita Chakrabarti's **Red Velvet**, superbly directed by Margo Hall. Set in London in 1833, the play tells an appalling story of the racial bigotry and populist anti Black sentiment of the day. Most of all – it's a true story, based entirely on historical fact. We're backstage at the Covent Garden theatre in London. Othello is supposed to open, but the leading actor, Edmond Kean, England's most prestigious actor, who plays Othello in blackface, is too ill to go on. Kean is part of a dynastic theatre family – his son Charles is his Iago. The theatre manager has sent for an American actor, Ira Aldridge, to step in. Aldridge is renowned in America and most of Europe, and will not need blackface makeup to play Othello because he is African American. The company is furious – they think Charles Kean should play Othello, they don't want a Yankee, or a Negro on their stage, certainly not touching the white actress who plays Desdemona (remember that Othello "kills her with a kiss",) not contaminating what they see as the purity of their art with his blackness. Nonetheless, Aldridge goes on in the role. The reviews are devastating. One reviewer goes so far as to say that Aldridge's large African lips make it impossible for him to properly speak the words of Shakespeare – the words cannot even be pronounced by him. Other reviewers express disgust at how the Nig... pawed at Desdemona. NB: the animal reference in "pawed." The show closes.

Aldridge was not hurt professionally by this experience. He is the best known American actor of his time, both in America and internationally. This reviewer found it hard to believe that English critics of the time actually wrote what's quoted in the play. So with a bit of research – found that the

quotes are in fact, exactly what the critics wrote. Horrific!!!

Carl Lumbly, one of my favorite actors, is brilliant as Othello, clearly sure of himself in spite of the bigotry he faces, arrogant as many superstars can be, deceptive about his past, enchantingly playful with his Desdemona. Susi Damilano is the actress Ellen Tree, who plays Desdemona. The supporting cast are all excellent. Gary English's set, which opens with a long view to the very rear of the Covent Garden theatre turns out to be a series of completely real seeming projections, so the setting is easily changed without pause or noise. The set itself is a few stage pieces, chairs, a table or two – just enough to indicate the Green Room of the theatre.

This is a wonderful production – which even as it engages us the audience, also discusses a very important part of theatre history and the role of race on stage.

Red Velvet, through June 25. 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

Mustn't forget to mention New Conservatory Theatre Center's delightful production of **On a Clear Day You Can See Forever**.

This musical has a checkered history. Originally written for a small intimate theatre, instead it was opened in a big Broadway house, where it promptly closed. It's a charming show, with great music, so some years later a brave producer decided to try it again, this time in a small theater. But once Harry Connick had been signed to sing the lead, the money men decided it had to be on Broadway, where it failed again. A hugely extravagant film with Barbra Streisand and Yves Montand (could there be a more unlikely romantic

couple?) was successful due to its stars, but failed miserably to capture the spirit of the show. And what a spirit it is!! The main character is hypnotized, and another person emerges, someone he was in a past life, a beautiful cabaret singer with whom the hypnotist falls in love. How is that going to work, you may ask. Well, see the show and find out.

The stage at NCTC is exactly the right size for this show, and the production is marvelous. Directed by NCTC Artistic Director Ed Decker, the show is a smash!! Decker has assembled a cast of super talented singers and dancers, a wonderful small orchestra, and a choreographer who tailors his work perfectly to the stage size. Decker presents the show the way it was always meant to be and it sparkles. Don't miss it!!!

On a Clear Day You Can See Forever, New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Avenue at Market, San Francisco, CA 94102. Through June. 12. Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Wed and Sun 2pm. Box Office 415-861-8972 Online <http://www.nctcsf.org/2015-16-season/on-a-clear-day-you-can-see-forever>

June Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Anni Puckett | June 10 |
| Mary Graves | June 10 |
| Lucretia Axtell | June 12 |
| Mary Suter | June 21 |
| Sandra Tye | June 28 |

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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June 2016

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

A person who never made a mistake, never tried anything new.
 Albert Einstein



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.