

**President’s Message**

Our membership meeting and awards luncheon was held on June 18 at the South Beach Yacht Club. It was a lovely day, we had great food, and were delighted to see a good turnout. For those of you who missed the luncheon, we honored our immediate past president Cathy Corcoran by awarding her the Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award.



Cathy Corcoran with Barbara Spencer

The purpose of the award is to recognize women in the San Francisco Bay Area who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in fostering the goals of AAUW to advance education and equity for women and girls. Cathy first came to AAUW San Francisco when she was doing research for her Doctorate of Education in 2008. Cathy quickly stepped up to become a board member, beginning with treasurer, followed by serving as our Avanti newsletter editor, and then serving two-plus terms as President. Under Cathy’s leadership, our branch formed alliances with other nonprofits serving women and girls and increased our branch’s presence in the Bay Area. All the while, Cathy has served as a full-time administrator at the Academy of Art University. Her current role is a very significant and time-consuming one as Vice President of Accreditation Compliance.

We also recognized our three Silver Jubilee Scholarship winners — Visakha Som, Leah Graniela, and Soknay Lim. Only Leah Graniela was able to attend our luncheon. She was introduced by Mary Suter, our Silver Jubilee chair, and given her scholarship check.



Leah Graniela and Mary Suter

Also in June, our branch hosted the quarterly Interbranch Council (IBC) meeting in Andrea Laudate’s lovely garden. We enjoyed barbecued ribs and salmon prepared by Andrea and her husband John. Mark Hopkins, AAUW’s Chief Strategic Officer, attended and filled us in on national matters. He also answered a number of questions from IBC members.

July was a quiet month for the branch, and we did not have a newsletter. We will be back in action in August and will have our annual board planning meeting on August 6 at 10 am at Barbara Spencer’s house. All members are welcome to attend; please let Barbara know if you plan to attend. As always, we would happily welcome more committee and board members. In particular, we need help with

programming and membership. Please consider joining us.

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

### **AAUWSF Board Meeting**

The next board meeting is on **Saturday, August 6, at 10 am** at Barbara Spenser's house. Call Barbara at 415-221-6690 if you plan to attend.

### **Afternoons With Books**

We will be meeting at the home of Terese Terry on **Friday, August 19 at 1:30.**

Please bring suggestions for books we will choose for the coming year, and your availability to be hostess. If you are not able to attend you can send your suggestions to Michelle or Terese. If you have books you would like to pass along to others you can bring those as well. Please RSVP to Terese at 415-800-7081 or [terese.terry@yahoo.com](mailto:terese.terry@yahoo.com). Her address is 850 Powell.

### **International Book Group**

**Date: Monday, August 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Book/Author:** The Sympathizer, by Vite Thanh Nguyen  
**Hostess:** Barbara Spencer, 736 Third Avenue  
 Please RSVP to Barbara at 415-221-6690 or [barbaracspenser@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracspenser@gmail.com)

### **Saturday Book Club**

**Date: Saturday, September 10 at 11 am**  
**Book/Author:** The Girl Next Door, by Ruth Rendell  
**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](mailto:mary.renner2@gmail.com)

### **Save the Date**

#### **Tech Trek Welcome Back!**

**When: Sunday, September 11, 2-4pm**  
**Where: The Exploratorium**

Meet the girls and their parents. Hear about their experiences, and learn what your donation to Tech Trek can mean to those who are privileged to go.

More information will be forthcoming in the September Avanti.

### **Tech Trek**

We were given a new opportunity to be involved at the Camp level by bringing lunch to the volunteer staff on Sunday, July 10th. Mary Renner, Anna Stern and I purchased lunch items and drove to Stanford. We put together a decorative lunch, joined the staff and heard how a camp works before the girls arrive. It was a beautiful day.

One of the dorm moms created a quilt out of prior Tech Trek tee shirts. Some photos of the event follow.



Pat Ivester, camp director, Marie Curie Camp in front of TechTrek Quilt



Mary, Anna and a Dorm Mother

### Tech Trek Thank You from the Campers

We thought you'd like to hear a word from our 2016 grateful campers. Quotes from our Camp Hopper participants include:

Sadie: "I greatly appreciated our jam packed days am with engaging in hands on activities."

Rebekah : " Thank you for the opportunity to meet new people and be more knowledgeable of careers in math and science."

Michelle:" ...this program has ensured me that it is completely okay for women to work in the STEM fields, ....."

Nancy: " my favorite presentation was the college finance and budgeting ."

Shavonne : " I learned three things: 1. Being humble will get you very far. 2. Take opportunities by two hands. 3. Science has a large number of careers that you should explore

Ahamani: " also it helped me see that there are more people who love science just as much as me and that it's not weird."

Next month you will hear from two more Hopper campers and the Curie campers. This is why we donate to and volunteer for the Tech Trek program.

**Elaine Butler**

## Birthdays and Blocks

Pat Camarena

Mildred and Patty and their four siblings were fortunate to be born into a Louisville, Kentucky family with forward looking parents. William and Martha Hill tried to provide all their children with the best possible education in the post Civil War south. The children were encouraged to use their imaginations and to become independent thinkers. Their Presbyterian minister father founded an academy for girls believing that well educated women would be essential to the recovery of the South during Reconstruction. Their mother established large areas in and around their home where the children had daily opportunities for free play, building with the bricks, boards, and barrels from their father's workshop. Creativity was always encouraged.

Later on in life, Patty Smith Hill went on to make a reputation for herself as a proponent of early kindergarten education reform incorporating her early childhood creative experiences. She was on the faculty of Columbia University's teacher's college for thirty years. She introduced the "Patty Hill Blocks" building blocks that were large enough for kindergarteners to build structures and actually be able to enter inside to play. Much of her work initiated curriculum reforms that permanently changed early childhood educational theory. Her sister Mildred became a musician and musicologist, especially interested in African American spiritual music.

Both sisters were posthumously inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1996. Why? Besides their educational accomplishments, the two sisters are credited with composing a very well known song. Their celebrated song was originally written and titled "Good Morning All" for inclusion in a publication "Song Stories for the Kindergarten" in 1893. We know and sing this song to this day on special occasions under the title "Happy Birthday" without

thinking about its origin. Mildred wrote the melody and Patty the lyrics.

[www.pgpedia.com](http://www.pgpedia.com)

[www.britanica.com](http://www.britanica.com)

[www.newworldencyclopedia.org](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org)

### **Playing Now** **Paula Campbell**

Score another hit for the SFPlayhouse, with the current production of Larry Gelbart's **City of Angels**. First produced on Broadway in 1989, it ran for more than three years, and won six Tony's and seven Drama Desk awards; the English production and later revival garnered three Olivier Awards. This is one great show! With music by Cy Coleman and lyrics by David Zippel how could it be otherwise!

Set in 1940s Los Angeles, **City of Angels** is a noir comedy, with two separate plot lines. One is the actual real world – a movie company making a film noir mystery, the second is the reel world of the film itself. So there are two sets of characters, two separate sets, two different stories. Need I say this is not an easy show to mount.

Directed by Bill English, who also designed the amazing two level set, this SFPlayhouse production shines. The cast of thirteen double in most roles – they are the actors making the movie, and also the characters in the movie. The singing and dancing are beautifully arranged by musical director Dave Dobrusky and choreographer Morgan Dayley. The two level set is enhanced by projections, and provides over 40 separate scene changes. I have said before that Bill English is a genius – his work in **City of Angels** certainly proves it!

Everything you ever wanted to know, and probably more than that, about how movies were made in

the 40's is explained, exposed, and hilariously satirized in **City of Angels**. If you loved the detective stories of that era, and the detective movies, this is must see show for you. If you missed that era, here's a great way to live and enjoy it today. Tough talking detectives, glamorous molls, gun toting thugs, and clinging girlfriends – the whole gestalt is right there on stage in glorious color for the real world, and black and white for the movie itself. Yes, the movie is in black and white – just wait and see how that's pulled off on stage.

With an eleven piece orchestra, and thirteen cast members, this is an ambitious theatrical undertaking. SFPlayhouse is undaunted – the production is stellar. Don't miss it – it's a unique show, beautifully crafted and beautifully performed.

**City of Angels**, through September 17. 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**

### **August Birthdays**

Julia Gluesing	August 8
Peg Jackson	August 10
Elizabeth Ray	August 15
Mary-Ellen White Vondra	August 21
Nancy Shapiro	August 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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**August 2016**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Int'l Books 7 PM	16	17	18	19 Aft w/Books 1:30 PM	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

*Realize deeply that the present moment is all you will ever need.*  
 Eckhart Tolle



**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)



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.