



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

September 2016

President's Message

Your board holds an annual planning meeting every summer to discuss what we liked about last year's activities and what we would like to do this year. We have active book groups and awesome financial and interviewing support for Tech Trek, but we are puzzled about what else would interest our members. Would you like to have occasional movie afternoon or evenings at a member's home in the Marina or in Potrero Hill? We would like to hear from you. Our emails are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Our branch is a member of the Alliance For Girls, which is an alliance of Bay Area organizations promoting the welfare of women and girls. There are about 125 organizations that are members, and many of them have programs that we could attend. We will attempt to let you know about programs that might be of interest and to help organize transportation if needed.

In the meantime, we hope to be in touch with more members by instituting a phone tree to remind people about events and to see if members need carpool transportation. The phone tree will be loosely organized by geographical area to facilitate ride-sharing.

We will begin by reminding people about the September 11 Welcome Back meeting at the Exploratorium from 2-4 pm. Our former president Deirdre Araujo has arranged for us to meet at the Exploratorium and will have name tags at the front desk for those who have RSVP'd. **You must RSVP to Elaine Butler (ElaineButler124@comcast.net or 415-305-2220) by September 3 to attend without**

paying the entrance fee. Further information is provided in the separate announcement in this newsletter.

We are instituting a new program chaired by Mary Suter. It is a monthly lunch open to all members and potential members that will occur on the second Tuesday of every month at different restaurants. We think that there are members who would like to get together purely to eat and socialize. Please see the separate announcement on this in the newsletter.

Please email Andrea or Barbara about programs or events you would be interested in.

Andrea Laudate and Barbara Spencer, Co-Presidents

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, September 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 doorman you are visiting Corrine, and ask to have your car parked. Call Corrine at 415-292-4130 if you have any questions. The potluck will begin at 6:30 pm., and the meeting will start at 7 pm. Please let Barbara know if you are unable to attend.

Afternoons With Books

Date: Friday, September 16, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

Book/Author: The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison

Hostess: Pat Metzger, 110 Steiner St. Please RSVP to Pat at 510-410-8772 or merhabametz@gmail.com

International Book Group

Date: Monday, September 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty, by Vendela Vida

Hostess: Mary Graves, 2901 Broderick St. Please RSVP to Mary at 415-563-3610 or marywgraves@comcast.net

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

Tech Trek Welcome Back!

When: Sunday, September 11, 2-4pm

Where: The Exploratorium, Pier 15 at the Embarcadero

At this special event, you will hear from the girls about their experiences at Tech Trek, and see what your donations mean to them.

Come on time so that when the presentations are finished, you will have until 5 PM to visit the Exploratorium.

Please RSVP to Elaine Butler, either by email: elainebutler124@comcast.net or 415-305-2220, by September 3rd.

Your names will be placed on a list at the front desk at the Exploratorium. You will check-in there and get a name tag to be worn while you are at the Exploratorium. You will be registered under TECH TREK - WITH CONTACT PERSON DEIRDRE ARAUJO.

Parking is available across the street for \$20. There is some street parking available at meters by the hour. Muni: F streetcar stops in front, bus lines 2,6,14, 21, 31 and Embarcadero BART is a gentle 10-15 minute walk away.

Come on time so that when we finish our presentations, you will have until 5 PM to visit the Exploratorium.

August Tech Trek Donors:

Joanne Mandel

Harriet Sollod

Thank you!

There is no program without your generosity.

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator

NEW INTEREST GROUP

Lunch Bunch

This group will be meeting regularly, every Second Tuesday of each month at 12 Noon.

At the lunch we can each choose a restaurant for the next month, which will be announced in the Avanti.

The Lunch Bunch will hold its first lunch at ANGKOR BOREI Restaurant, which has Cambodian Cuisine, has been in business for 30 years, and is the only Cambodian restaurant in San Francisco.

Date: Tuesday, September 13 at 12 noon.

Where: Angkor Borei Restaurant: 3471 Mission St at Cortland and 30th St. Parking available on the side streets.

Or more information contact Mary Suter at 415-665-1185 or marsuter@yahoo.com.

Or just show up!!

Silver Jubilee Winners

We received numerous responses to our request for nominations for our annual Silver Jubilee Scholarship. This year we awarded three scholarships to outstanding women.



Leah Graniela and Mary Suter, Chair, Silver Jubilee

Leah Graniela graduated from Wellesley College ready to make a positive change. At first she felt individual change could be made by creating communities that young people would have the potential and courage to make changes. As such she worked with high school students to develop this process. She joined women's activist groups to fight the end of street harassment and violence against women.

She moved four years ago from New York City to Oakland, CA, and her worldview shifted. The violence and systemic dysfunction in Oakland became visible, especially in education. She became aware that great youth programs will not help without system and structural changes.

Leah entered San Francisco State University for a Master's degree in Education with a concentration

in Equity and Social Justice. With this degree she will use her expertise to make educational system change with a focus on girls. She will use her skills to help those directly impacted by educational inequity and to use their stories to advocate for policy change. Not stopping there, Leah plans to work to evaluate policies that are already in place through a gender and racial equity lens to make sure they are serving all students.

Her current work is at Girls Inc. of Alameda County as the program Enhancement & Innovation Manager for youth development and gender equity. As a part time student in a non-profit and education field she has financed her education through loans. She is dedicating her life to this work and plans to continue to do the work she loves because she knows she can make a difference. She felt that receiving the Silver Jubilee Scholarship would feel like a strong vote of confidence as she moves forward in her educational and career aspirations to fight for educational equity.

Leah will receive her Master's in Education with a concentration in Equity and Social Justice in May 2017.



Soknay Lim

Soknay Lim's parents had to apply for ten years to complete the immigration process from Cambodia to the United States. The family had little education under the Communist Party and leader Pol Pot.

There was tremendous adjustment for the whole family when they arrived in the United States.

Soknay was fortunate to find the Vietnamese Youth Development Center to help her grow and decode the complex system of American life. Her language skills developed with sports and a youth leadership program to improve her English, people skills, and confidence.

Her mother's diabetes with multiple visits to the doctor has kept Soknay close to home. She became aware of the needs of people with illnesses and begin to think of her future career.

Her major is in health education at San Francisco State University. She wants to keep healthcare affordable, have preventions instead of interventions, and stop the health problems at the beginning rather than treating the symptoms. Soknay is passionate about preventative healthcare.

I quote from Soknay, "I will achieve my degree in health education so that I can empower people to become leaders in their health decisions and in their communities. They can start their own social change similar to the work of Sarah Dix Hamlin 'who pioneered the role of women in California education'. Out of the AAUW association, students in need can achieve their educational goals, improve themselves and their families' lives."

She has received financial aid from the Cal Grant for her first four years but now she is cut off in her fifth year. As she said, "it ignited some concerns". Would she need to work two jobs which would interfere with her studies? Now, she has received the Silver Jubilee Scholarship and will be able to pay for textbooks, to get class materials, and to finance part of her tuition.

Soknay will receive her Bachelor of Science in Health Education in May 2017.



Visakha Som

Visakha Som is the youngest daughter of a Khmer family. As a child she lived in Cambodia and returned to Cambodia as an adult.

She spent three years in Cambodia volunteering with orphans and street children then returned to school to complete her degree in Women's Studies. With her degree she embarked on her career in administration in mental health and social services agencies. She has over 10 years of professional experience with two local non-profits, both dedicated to helping local communities.

Visakha has facilitated a student-directed seminar for the Women's Studies program at UCSC; is a member of Good Ol'Girls, a nonprofit that empowers progressive women through outreach, education, and mentorship; is a board member of Alameda County Meals on Wheels; is an advisor for the Social Justice Collaborative, and has facilitated a senior advocacy group.

One of her recent jobs was the director of the Aging Services division with Bay Area Community Services. It provided meals for 1200 seniors, gave companionship to homebound seniors, developed interim care for homeless adults, and facilitated two Memory Centers for disabled adults and seniors.

Visakha became keenly aware that she needed to get a master's degree to obtain career opportunities available to those with advanced degrees. She was accepted in the Public

Administration program in 2012 but deferred due to her heavy workload.

In January 2015, she left work to pursue her graduate degree. With her new academic assets and past professional experience the opportunities to continue to help the community will be plentiful. At this time Visakha will receive her Master's in Public Administration in May 2017 at San Francisco State University.

A Righteous Woman

Pat Camarena

During World War II countless numbers of courageous civilians risked their lives to save the lives of others. Some received recognition at the time. Some did not. Irena Sendler, a Polish nurse and social worker, fell in the latter category. In her quiet way, she served as the prime mover of a network that saved the lives of approximately 2,500 Jewish children and babies by arranging to smuggle them out of the Warsaw ghetto. Her actions nearly cost her her life. Under the Nazi occupation of Poland in 1943, Irena was arrested, interrogated, tortured, and sentenced to death by firing squad. Only bribes to the guards taking her to her execution saved her life. She continued her work returning secretly to Warsaw under an assumed name. She and her coworkers buried lists in glass jars under an apple tree to keep track of the rescued children's true identities and the Christian names given to them after placement with Polish families. After the war, Irena was again imprisoned for a year and brutally interrogated by the communist secret police due to her connections with Poland's principal resistance organization. Her ties to that party meant that, even after her release from prison, she was not recognized as a hero in her own communist controlled nation. Never the less, she remained active in various social work programs for many years until forced into retirement when her declarations of support for Israel in the 1967 war

rankled the Polish government which had broken off diplomatic relations in the war's aftermath. There was no further public recognition of her courageous wartime resistance and humanitarian work until after 1989 when communist rule in Poland ended. Since then she has received many awards nationally and internationally including three nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1999 her status as unsung heroine really changed when a Kansas high school history teacher enlisted his students to find out more about Irena as a class project. The result was a play based on their research into her life story. The play was staged over two hundred times both in the US and abroad. The students won an award for it, did fundraising, and actually traveled to Poland to meet Irena with whom they had been exchanging correspondence. A close relationship evolved. Anna Paquin portrayed Irena in a television adaptation. A documentary also followed. PBS presented it in 2011. More honors came her way even after her passing in 2008 at age 98. Now the Life in a Jar Foundation gives yearly awards to people who exemplify Irena's attitude and values.

www.snopes.com

www.irenasendler.org

www.chadbad.org

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

Beautiful, The Carole King Musical, now at the Orpheum Theatre is a must-see. It's a gorgeous production, performed with gusto by a talented, devoted cast, with great costumes, and technical scenic effects that will knock your socks off.

Beautiful played here in SF a few years ago, as a pre-Broadway tryout. It was a very good show then, but now – it is an amazing show! I saw the

first production here, and was loathe to see it again, but decided to give it a whirl. I am so glad I did – this is an entirely new show, engineered for success, designed to be spectacular.

Carole King's music is legendary – one after another we hear great songs, each of them a huge hit in its day, and just as good today. Who doesn't love *So Far Away*, *Will You Love Me Tomorrow*, *Up on the Roof*, *You Make Me Feel (Like a Natural Woman)*, *You've Got a Friend*, and the host of other songs King and her contemporaries wrote and performed.

Beautiful previewed here with Jesse Mueller as Carole King, who also played the role on Broadway. Both her physical resemblance and her and vocal sound totally invoked King. The current production stars Abby Mueller, Jesse's sister, who is also a look alike and sound alike for King. The supporting cast is excellent, and enormous – 28 talented singers and dancers. This is a touring company deluxe – head and shoulders above my expectations.

Set, costumes, lighting are all amazing. In particular, the show is high tech, utilizing set movement and lighting that wasn't possible a few years ago. There's been a technical revolution, which isn't often apparent in touring companies, but which thoroughly drives this one. At one point I actually turned around in my seat to look for the follow spot – but there wasn't one. Looking at the credits in the back of the program is an eye opener – Scenic Technologies and similar company names appear – it's a whole new world in set design, movement and lighting. And it's gorgeous!

Beautiful is a beautiful show – the story of a woman who set the tone for decades of American

popular music – and it's a feel good show as well – I left the theatre with a huge smile on my face, and a warm feeling in my heart.

I highly recommend **Beautiful, The Carole King Musical**, for the music, the talent, the new technology that permits scenic effects unknown till now, and the great feeling, the spirit of this show that leaves the audience happy.

Beautiful, the Carole King Musical, through Sept. 18. Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market Street, Tickets: Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market Street, Tickets: www.shnsf.com Phone 888-746-1799, or at the theatre. Tues–Sat 8pm, Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm.

September Birthdays

Barbara Spencer	September 11
Robin Brasso	September 13
Linda Chapman	September 16
Nora Lee	September 18
Mary Worth	September 18
Mona Ghasemian	September 20
Pat Metzgar	September 21
Kathleen Kennedy	September 23
Dawn Wilkes	September 23
Janice Gonsalves	September 24
Kathy Traynor	September 24
Mardi Kildebeck	September 25
Jane Hansen	September 30

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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September 2016

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

Well done is better than well said.
 Benjamin Franklin



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.