

President's Message



On a beautiful Saturday morning, a group of us crossed the Bay Bridge to visit the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond. There is an interactive visitor center that shows films about World War II activities in the San Francisco Bay Area. The films covered the internment of Japanese-Americans from the Richmond area and the ship-building efforts of the Kaiser shipyard. Although the term Rosie the Riveter has stuck, the women who worked in the shipyards were primarily Wendy the Welders. The highlight of the trip was hearing 96-year-old Park Ranger Betty Soskin talk for an hour about her experiences before, during, and after World War II. Betty is the country's oldest National Park Ranger. She told us about moving to Oakland as a youngster, living with her great-grandmother who had been born into slavery, and working during World War II as a file clerk at a Jim Crow all-black union auxiliary in Richmond. The unions and shipyards were racially segregated, and many of the men were unhappy to have women joining the workforce. According to one of the films, the women were superior welders! One of the highlights of Betty Soskin's life was attending the

2009 inauguration of President Obama as a guest of Congressman George Miller and actually meeting President Obama. The Rosie the Riveter Museum presents an outstanding view of our World War II homefront history.



Mary Renner as Rosie

Corrine Sacks and I attend the AAUW Funds luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco and heard presentations from several fellows. AAUW has been awarding fellowships to women for 135 years. This year there are 26 AAUW Fund Fellowship and Grant recipients studying in California colleges and universities or doing projects in our communities. We heard from Adele Kuzmiakova from Slovakia who is doing postgraduate work at Stanford in engineering; Zesemayat Mekonnen who is pursuing a degree in medicine and health science; Chyndyli Rogel from the Philippines who is pursuing a master's degree at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies; Alissa Walter who doing graduate work in history at Georgetown but studying at Stanford's archive of Baath Party materials from the Iraq wars; and Monica Yu of the

Girl Scouts of Northern California who received a Community Action Grant for after-school activities. AAUW has a storied history of awarding grants for women's research. Indeed, Marie Curie's research was aided by a grant from AAUW. Also, Tech Trek was started with a Community Action Grant 20 years ago.

Time marches on, and our Holiday Lunch is scheduled for Saturday, December 9 at Mescolanza Restaurant. Please keep that date in mind. You will receive invitations in the mail later in the month.

Barbara Spencer, President

My Mom, a Midwest Rosie the Riveter

I am about to visit my soon to be 93 year old mom. I remember seeing a dustpan and a piece of metal with all types of rivets on it . These were samples of her work from her training to become a Wisconsin Rosie the Riveter. She was proud of her training. I will ask her more about how she used it. Several AAUW members visited the Rosie Museum in Richmond, CA. I am curious to learn how many of our members had a relative, who served as a Rosie in WWII.

Elaine Butler

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, November 8, 2017**, at Barbara Spencer's house, 736 Third Ave.

Call Barbara at 415-221-6690 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, November 17, 2017 at 1:30 PM

Book/Author: The Sympathizer, by Viet Thanh Nguyen

Hostess: Joanne Mandel, 12 Marne Ave
Please RSVP to Joanne at 415-665-7329 or jmandel6@yahoo.com

International Book Group

Date: Monday, November 20, at 7:00 PM

Book/Author: The Noise of Time, by Julian Barnes

Hostess: Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona St
Please RSVP to Sheila at 415-823-0961 or wawonast@earthlink.net

Mystery/Adventure Book Group

Date: November 16 at 7:30 PM

Hostess: Elaine Butler, 124 Amber Dr.

Reviewer: Mary Suter

RSVP: Elaine at 415-305-2220 or elainebutler124@comcast.net

Lunch Bunch

Second Tuesday Lunch Bunch

Date: Tuesday, November 14, at 12 noon.

Where: Park Chow

(American Comfort Food)
1240 9th Avenue
Near N Judah Trolley

RSVP Mary Suter at 415-666-1185 or marsuter@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Holiday Party



Saturday, December 9, 2017, 11:00 AM

Mescolanza Restaurant, 3750 Geary Blvd.

MENU
STUZZICHINO

Platters with:

BRUSCHETTA CON POMODORO grilled slices of bread, marinated tomatoes
ANTIPASTO MESCOLANZA

INSALATE

INSALATA MISTA butter lettuce, roma tomatoes, house dressing

OR

INSALATA DI CESARE classic romaine salad, house made croutons

ENTREES

Your choice of:

GNOCCHI SPINACI: homemade spinach dumpling, creamy tomato sauce

OR

PETTO DI POLLO ALLA PARMIGIANA: breast of chicken parmigiana, accompanied by seasonal vegetables

OR

VEAL AL MARSALA: pounded veal, shallots, mushrooms, Marsala wine, accompanied by seasonal vegetables

DOLCE

Your choice of

CREME CAMELLA: vanilla pudding and caramelized sugar

OR

CIOCCOLATA CON AMARETTI: chocolate flan with amaretto and crushed amaretti cookies

BEVANDE

Italian coffee, tea, or soda

Cost is \$35. Please mail checks payable to AAUW-SF, and put entree choice on check.

Mail to Barbara Spencer, 736 3rd Ave., SF 94118

RSVP by Dec.3, and email entrée choice to barbaracspencer@gmail.com. PayPal also available.

For additional information contact Barbara Spenser at 415-221-6690 or barbaracspencer@gmail.com

Tech Trek

Tech Trek Donations

As previously mentioned, Tech Trek administration is being returned from the national office to California as of November 1. From now on, donation checks for Tech Trek should be payable to AAUW CA SPF. For those who need it, the tax ID # is 68-0463071. All donations should be sent to Barbara Spencer who will forward them to the camp treasurers. Donations of \$250 or greater will be acknowledged by SPF. Those under that amount will be acknowledged by our branch.

Please do not donate to Tech Trek online at national because those funds may not be forwarded to our branch.

Barbara Spencer, Treasurer

Something Special

Join AAUW and our [jAdelante! Book of the Month Club](#) on November 9th at 7:30pm ET as we commemorate Native American Heritage Month by talking with Winona LaDuke about her book *The Winona LaDuke Chronicles: Stories from the Front Lines in the Battle for Environmental Justice*.

The Winona LaDuke Chronicles is a collection of timely, persuasive, and inspiring stories of indigenous communities — from the Canadian subarctic to the heart of the Navajo Nation. It is an account of LaDuke's personal journey to recovery, beginning when her home burned down in 2008. The book is also a story of strength and resilience — not just LaDuke's own but also that of many tribal and First Nations communities in North America who struggle just to survive. Register to join us for a great discussion with this inspiring champion of environmental justice.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Happy reading,

Hannah Seligman
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Jennie's Vision Pat Camarena



Over a century ago, on the site of a former quarry, Jennie Butchart began creating what is now considered one of the world's premier floral show gardens. Still operational today, it is located about twelve miles outside of Victoria on Vancouver Island. Each year her beautiful gardens draw thousands of visitors from all over the world. Jennie would be amazed at the garden's transformation since its inception so long ago..

While on their English honeymoon, her new husband, Robert, had learned about a new process for cement production. The west coast of North America was experiencing a population boom at that time. There was a growing need for building materials. The young couple moved to western Canada looking for property potentially rich in limestone.

From their limestone quarry, the Butcharts began producing and shipping great quantities of Portland cement south to the expanding cities from Seattle to San Francisco.. Slowly, Jennie, being a multi-talented creative person with a green thumb, began planting trees and shrubs along the road from their house to the nearby shipping cove. Often factory workmen came to assist her as her gardening project grew.

By 1908, the limestone deposit was depleted. A giant mud hole fifty feet deep was left. Attempting to hide this excavation, Jennie began by planting trees around the edge of the fifty foot deep pit. Horse carts brought a massive amounts of top soil to be deposited on the quarry floor creating a sunken garden. As her decendants still tell the story, Jennie planted ivy into every crevice she could reach while sitting in a boson's chair swung over the edge of the quarry walls.

Many of the foremost European horticulturalists with whom Jennie had been corresponding continued to send her new plants and seeds to cultivate. By 1921 the project was complete. As word of Jennie's efforts began to spread, the local community eagerly began to visit. Tea was served to all that came. Soon the Butcharts were serving

tea to 18,000 people a year. Many visitors traveled great distances to marvel at the quarry's new and unique appearance.

Over the years, Jennie and Robert's children and grandchildren have taken over care of the lush gardens. Every season brings spectacular garden blooms. In summer at dusk, the lights come on in an artful display of light and shadow. There are over sixty evenings of musical entertainments. Jennie, as artistic as she was, could never have imagined the direction her horticulture project would take.

In many universities today, women often comprise a majority of horticulture majors. However, the past contributions of notable women who have advanced this field of study have largely been overshadowed in journals and textbooks. Many women horticulturalist pioneers, Jennie Butchart being only one example, deserve greater recognition in modern college curricula. Virtually no horticulture reading references mention more than just a few females. It's time for women such as Jenny Butchart to be seen as role models for today's students.

www.footlooseboomer.com

www.birdsof Feather.ca

www.butchartgardens.com

Playing Now Paula Campbell

The San Francisco Playhouse production of Robert O'Hara's **Barbecue** is a mixed bag. The first act is confusing, and not entirely comprehensible, as there's a lot of shouting in what I call "stage hillbilly" dialect, which is hard to understand. The night I was there, some of the audience gave up and left at Intermission. Sad for them – they missed an excellent second act, which made everything – plot and language – clear as a bell.

Beautifully directed by Margo Hall, who also plays one of the two female leads, **Barbecue** opens at a family barbecue. This white, low class, down country family is using the barbecue to stage an intervention for an addicted family member. A clue as to what the family is like is that the barbecue site they've reserved is right in front of the restrooms. The family members fight, shout, scream at each other, but the fun really starts when the subject of the intervention arrives. (If you'd call tying someone up to a post and threatening to tase them fun.)

Suddenly the stage goes dark – when the lights come back on the act starts again – same characters, same names, same clothes – only this time the family is black. The family dynamic is the same for both families – loud shouting, fighting, screaming. They too are there to perform an intervention. The point is reached where the interventionee (sic) is tied to the post – when she suddenly pulls off her gag, and shouts “Cut – it’s a wrap” or words to that effect.

It's Intermission and the audience, some of whom have left, come back to a very different Act 2. We find that we've been watching the filming of a movie about addiction. The two actresses who play the main women – Susie Damilano is Barbara (to 10/31, then Sally Dana takes over) in the white cast, and Margo Hall is Barbara in the black cast, face off. The women argue about the script, which is based on a published addiction memoir white Barbara wrote while in rehab and black Barbara bought to film and star in. It's been decided to go with the black cast in the film – white Barbara is furious – but black Barbara has the pulse of the money people and she thinks the whole story is more credible with a black cast. Small changes are made – for instance, the drug of choice is changed from meth to crack. White Barbara really can't fight it – black Barbara sees the film as her chance for an Oscar and won't let anything get in her way.

It's a powerful second act – a feud between two dynamic, strong women, each propelled by overriding self-interest.

Enough plot – go see **Barbecue** and find out what happens. The second act makes it all worthwhile.

I've got to say a few more words about Margo Hall. She is a gem – a brilliant actress and director – who's career in local theatre is outstanding, filled with awards of all kinds. We are fortunate to have such an amazingly talented performer here in the Bay area. I've followed her work for many years and never ceased to be surprised at her innovation and creativity. Her performance last season as the 300 year old Aunt Esther (a play on 'ancestor') in August Wilson's **Gem of the Ocean** is something I will never forget. Here's a chance to see her again, in a leading role in what in Act 2 becomes a two character play.

Barbecue may be flawed, but it's definitely worth seeing!

Barbecue, through Nov 11. 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/>
Tues-Wed-Thurs 7pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm, (some) Suns 2pm.

November Birthdays

Sandra Martino	November 5
Alicia Helman	November 7
Anna Yang	November 19
Rachel Cutter	November 21
Kathleen Cha	November 22
Kelly Joseph	November 29
Beth Wells	November 30

AAUWSF Board

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November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon	15	16 Myst/Adv 7:30 pm	17 Aft w/Books 1:30pm	18
19	20 Internat'l Books 6 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the heart.

Kahil Gabran



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.