



President's Message

The Holiday Season is upon us, and we will be celebrating on Saturday, December 9, with a luncheon at Mescolanza Restaurant (2nd Ave. at Geary Blvd) at 11 am. There is still time to RSVP if you have not already done so. We need to have a final count by December 3. There will be delicious food, great company, and DOOR PRIZES! Questions? Contact me.

In November, I attended the CEDAW awards breakfast presented by the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women. CEDAW stands for the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. In 1998, San Francisco was the first city to adopt the principles of CEDAW. These principles are advanced by the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women through its programs supporting human rights, improving responses to violence against women, and advancing women's economic

empowerment. The Friends of the Commission is a 501(c)(3) organization of which our branch member Linda Calhoun is president. The Friends presented an inspiring program, and it was awesome to see a whole ballroom full of supporters!



Barbara with branch member Linda Calhoun, President of Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Our Tech Trek program is gearing up. Elaine Butler, Leslie Yuan (new member whose daughter was a camper last summer), and I went to the camp coordinators meeting to learn about this year's camp plans. Administration of Tech Trek is now back in the hands of our state organization. Thus, it is now requested that all Tech Trek donations be made out to AAUW-CA SPF (a 501(c)(3) organization) and given to me to be forwarded on. The tax ID number is 68-0463071.

The camp directors said that the Mad Money program was a huge hit and will be give again. It is a game that teaches the girls about real world

finances. The game needs 10 volunteers to help, so please let Elaine know if you would like to participate.

Best holiday wishes to all 🎄

Barbara Spencer, President

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, December 6, 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, December 15, 2017 at 1:30 PM

Book/Author: Camino Island, by John Grisham

Hostess: Michelle Mammini, 2050 Greenwich St

Please RSVP to Joanne at 415-346-9114

or mmammini@pacbell.net

International Book Group

There is no meeting in December

Mystery/Adventure Book Group

Mystery/Adventure Holiday Potluck

Date: December 14, 2017

Time: 6:30 PM Time is 1 hour earlier

Hostess: Joanne Bellan, 2466 23rd Ave. SF

Book and Author: The Twelve Dogs of Christmas by David Rosenfeld

Reviewer: All of Us

RSVP: Joanne at 415-2466 23rd Ave.

Please note; bring your favorite dish. We do not assign any type of dish. It is a surprise and in the past has still provided a well-balanced meal.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at noon

Restaurant: Lavash Restaurant, Persian/Iranian
511 Irving St. between 6th and 7th Ave.

RSVP to Mary Suter, marsuter@yahoo.com

Annual Holiday Party



Saturday, December 9, 2017, 11:00 AM

You can still join us. Call Barbara for information!

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 2018 is working hard already

Barbara Spencer, Leslie Yuan and I attended the Stanford Coordinator's meeting on November 18th. We learned that it is official. California is now it's own region for the Tech Trek program. We are on our own as we had been until 3 years ago. Not too much has changed except we are not a 501 C3 We have a California State AAUW entity named the Special Projects Fund that is a 501 C3. Therefore when you make out your check for a donation to Tech Trek, be sure the payee line reads: payable to AAUW CA SPE. Make sure SF Branch is included on the memo line. Mail the check to our Branch Address with Attn: TechTrek in the address.

Elaine Butler, Barbara Spencer and our newest team member, Leslie Yuan.

Something Special

Looking for an engaging holiday read? Look no further than AAUW's [jAdelante! Book of the Month Club](#) pick *The Gilded Years*, a fictionalized account of the life of the first African American woman to graduate from Vassar College.

From an early age Anita Hemmings longed to attend Vassar College. But she is hiding a secret, and it's one that may compromise her dream: She is an African American woman living in 19th-century America, years before most U.S. colleges opened their doors to African American students. With her light skin, Anita succeeds in passing as

white and matriculating at Vassar, where she finds herself living with Lottie Taylor, the daughter of one of New York's most prominent families. Pulling a reclusive Anita out of her shell, Lottie inadvertently puts her friend's greatest secret at risk.

The Stargazer Pat Camarena



Annie Jump Cannon

In the 1870s, Harvard Observatory, began hiring women, called "calculators", to classify and catalog stars under the mentorship of director Edward C. Pickering. After Pickering supposedly became frustrated with the efforts of his all-male staff, he decided to hire women instead. The women used a model established by Williamina Fleming, a Scottish-American astronomer who initially worked as Pickering's housekeeper. Williamina became one of the first of this all-women cadre of human "computers".

Another member of Pickering's so-called "harem" of women astronomers was Annie Jump Cannon. Annie was to develop an improved

classification system based upon the surface temperature of stars. For this work, Annie would make fifty cents an hour.

Annie had become interested in astronomy as a young girl when her mother taught her how to identify the constellations. A physics major at Wellesley she studied astronomy as well. She used the campus telescope to observe the stars and study their light to learn more about them. After graduation, Annie moved into nearby Cambridge where she would work as an astronomer for the rest of her life.



She did not receive the title of "assistant" at the Harvard Observatory until more than thirty years of employment. A tireless worker, her observations accumulated in staggering numbers between 1918 and 1924. She published nine volumes of data that included information on more than 300,000 stars. The classification system that she invented is still used today.

In an unfortunate move for women's place in science and history, this massive work of over nine volumes of Annie's findings was initially titled "The Henry Draper Catalog", in honor of a physician whose interest in astronomy led him to take some of the first photographs of stars. Few users would realize that his name was posthumously attached to this scholarly work only because his widow

endowed the observatory's project in his name when Annie was still an undergraduate.

During her many years at Harvard, Annie was known for her speed and her extraordinary ability to draw distinctions in the photographs of stellar spectra. In 1925, she received an honorary doctorate degree from Oxford University, a first for women. Her American colleagues elected her as the first woman officer of the American Astronomical Society. Harvard finally gave her the rank of professor in 1938, after almost fifty years of work and just two years before her official retirement age. However, Annie continued her observatory research until she died in 1941. Stargazing can be a hard habit to break.

Forgotten for many years, in July of 2017, the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics's Wolbach Library unveiled a display showcasing the transcribed logbooks and notebooks of these early women astronomers

www.skyandtelescope.com

www.space.com

www.rejectedprincesses.com

Playing Now Paula Campbell

Le Switch, now at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, is an absolute delight.

It's the lighthearted story of an uptight New York librarian who can accept love but can't accept making a commitment, and the young Canadian florist who wins his heart, but struggles to win his hand.

Playwright Philip Dawkins studies the effect of legalizing gay marriage on a commitment phobic gay man, turning it into a heart string pulling,

funny, sad yet happy story, which Director Tim Bruett presents without missing a nuance, nor a clue, leaving the audience crossing its collective fingers, mentally shouting "Do it, do it -- say yes."

We meet our hero, David, brought to painfully realistic life by actor Steve Rhyne, at a crisis point in his life. His long time live-in boyfriend has just proposed marriage. But David, though he loves him, just can't say yes. When they moved in together marriage wasn't a possibility. Now the law is changed but David's mind set hasn't changed with it. His librarian's mind is filled with classifications, the Dewey Decimal System – the rigid and the tidy. There's no place for marriage. He's willing to end the relationship if continuing it means marriage. He simply can't commit. His lover is heartbroken, but moves out.

We next see David at a friend's wedding in Montreal, Canada. He stops at a flower shop to buy flowers for the newlyweds, and winds up falling for the young French Canadian flower seller, Benoit, played with perfect accent (and perfect everything else) by Ryan Vasquez. Ryan winds up back in New York with David.

General happiness ensues – much love, much learning a new language, much general joy de vivre for both. Their friends are happy for them, their life seems filled with love, they seem content. But Benoit isn't as content as he seems – to him, marriage is a must. He sees it as the ultimate expression of their love, and so he proposes. And David says no. His friends, played by Nancy French, Donald Currie, and Brian J. Patterson, urge him to marry, but he just can't. Benoit returns to Montreal, David suffers his loss, tries to open his heart. Finally, Benoit makes a surprise visit, David comes home from the library, and there he is – Benoit is back! What happens – does David finally say Yes -- does Benoit give up and go back to Montreal – SEE THE PLAY AND FIND OUT !!!

Le Switch makes for a very enjoyable evening, which at the same time examines a very universal problem, fear of commitment. It does so in a light hearted way, but by no means superficially. It's well worth seeing!

Le Switch, extended through Dec.10. New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Avenue at Market, San Francisco, CA 94102. Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, and Sun 2pm. Box Office 415-861-8972 Online <https://www.nctcsf.org/shows/201718Season/LeSwitch>

It's the Season for Giving

Can't figure out what to get your favorite girls this holiday season?

AAUW's Holiday Gift Guide for Girls has you covered. For the sixth year in a row we've created a list of gifts that empower girls to believe in themselves, defy stereotypes, be creative, and dream big! You can find gifts for activists, scientists, and change makers at every age and at every stage of their trailblazing careers.

We have some amazing things for girls from the onesies to something for the over 65's in your life.

Check out the site on the AAUW.org website!

www.aauw.org/2017/11/22/holiday-gift-guide-for-girls-2017-edition/#65

Plan a Gift That Will Change Lives for Women and Girls

For each of us, philanthropy is intensely personal. It is an expression of our values and our vision of the world we hope to create for the next generation. Your support of AAUW today makes it possible for us to fund critical programs to help break through

the persistent barriers that continue to limit opportunities for women and girls. But when you plan a gift to AAUW in your long-term estate or financial plans, you will ensure future with changes that are so important to women and their families. Use the links to the left to learn more about estate planning, how you can include a gift to us as part of those plans and how you can benefit from your gift.

Throughout the website you will find some ideas for giving that you may be aware of — and some you may not. Many of these giving options provide benefits to you and your heirs in the form of tax savings and income in your retirement years.

To learn more, we encourage you to explore these gift opportunities. We are happy to assist you in any way we can as you consider if one of these options is right for you.

December Birthdays

Angie Durso

December 23



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December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Holiday Party 11:00 am
10	11	12 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon	13	14 Myst/Adv 6:30 pm	15 Aft w/Books 1:30pm	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	28	29	30	31

Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist.

Pablo Picasso



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.