



President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Let's hope that 2018 brings greater equity for women and girls. Sexual harassment has finally made the news big time. Although we all knew it existed, it is still distressing to learn of the breadth of bad behavior that has come to light.

The Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women have collaborated with our national AAUW office in sponsoring workshops all over the Bay Area on the AAUW Work Smart program. The program teaches women to negotiate for salaries and benefits. The Friends held a press conference on December 11 on the steps of City Hall to publicize the launch of the program.



I was there with our trusty AAUW banner to ensure our AAUW recognition. Our board member Kelly Joseph was trained to lead such workshops and presented one this month at George Washington High School. The Friends have obtained sponsorship for the program and hope to train 20,000 women in the Bay Area by 2020. It is an extremely valuable contribution to the goal of greater equity for women.

There will be another Women's March in San Francisco on January 20, 2018. The details are still being worked out, but you can find out more by Googling Women's March Bay Area.

Finally, we are rolling out a new program of incentives to increase our membership. Any member who brings in a new member will receive a 50% reduction in dues for the coming year, and the new member will also pay half-price dues. All you need to do is to let Nancy Shapiro know about your sponsorship. Let's find some new members!

Barbara Spencer, President

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, January 10, 2018**, at Corrine Sacks' condo, 1835 Franklin St. #401 (between Sacramento and Clay).

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.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at noon

Restaurant: Toast Eatery, Breakfast and Brunch
160 West Portal

415-566-2000

RSVP to Mary Suter, marsuter@yahoo.com

Afternoons With Books

Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 at 1:30 PM

Book/Author: A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry

Hostess: Anni Puckett, 22 Hancock St.

Please RSVP to Anni at 415-255-8702

or markstroh@att.net

Branch Invitation

North Peninsula Branch
cordially invites you to
**San Francisco to Mid Peninsula
Mini Inter-Branch Conference:
AAUW Fellowship Luncheon**

International Book Group

Date: Monday, January 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: *Lilac Girls*, by Martha Hall Kelly

Hostess: Jane Hansen, 601 Van Ness, Apt. #326

Please RSVP to Jane at 415-225-6985 or

jane.california@gmail.com

Date: Saturday, February 24th, 2018

Time: 12 to 2 pm,

Location: Basque Cultural Center

599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco 94080

Our speaker is **Monica Yu**,

Director of the Institutional Giving at Girl Scouts of Northern California

Mystery/Adventure Book Group

Date/Time: January 25, 2018 at 7:30 PM:

Book/Author: *Murder Between the Lines*, by Radha Vatsal

Hostess: Mary Suter, 1770 18th Ave

Reviewer: Susan Shwartz

RSVP: Mary at 415-314-6893

Send your check (payable to your branch) for \$45 to your branch treasurer before **February 8**.

Please indicate your choice of menu:

Salmon, Chicken, or Vegetarian Pasta.

Price includes salad, main dish, desert, tea/coffee, gratitude, taxes.

NOTE: THERE MAY BE A CHANGE OF HOSTESS.

Save the Date

Women's March Bay Area March and Rally "Hear Our Vote"

Saturday, January 20, 2018
San Francisco Civic Center
12 Noon Rally
2 PM March

Women's March is a female-led movement providing intersectional education on a range of issues and creating entry points for new grassroots activists & organizers to engage with/in their local communities through trainings, outreach programs and events. The focus on voter education, voter outreach, and voter empowerment are encompassed in the actions' theme, "Hear Our Vote!"

"Last year's election compelled many of us to a level of action and activism that has changed our lives and our communities, forging connections across groups that have otherwise been siloed," said Jenny Bradanini, co-lead of Women's March San Jose. "As is clear from the unprecedented number of women candidates this cycle, the grassroots movement has taken hold. First we marched, now we run!"



Support the March by purchasing a shirt. Zazzle.com is offering a 30% discount for a limited time. (search for women's march) Use promo codes ZWOMENSMARCH at checkout.

**Proudly wear your shirt and let the world know...
Our votes matter.
Our presence matters.
We vote for ourselves and for those who cannot.**

For Additional information:

Contact: Margaret Shaughnessy
415-987-0285

Martha@womensmarchbayarea.org

Tech Trek

It is the time for 7th grade math and science teachers to begin nominating students for 2018 summer. Each year the teachers change and we lose some of our experienced nominators. We also don't know who replaced them; so if you have the names of any 7th grade math or science teachers let me know. Leslie and I are attempting to get everyone online but nominations can be made on hardcopy.

Please send teacher information to Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator :
elainebutler124@comcast.net or 415-826-3172.
Thank you for your help.

IMPORTANT DATE

Tech Trek Interviews are scheduled for **March 11 and 12** at 1663 Mission St. at 13th (Same location as the last few years.) We need all the help we can get to meet and interview the girls who want to participate this year!!

December Donors

Thank you so much for your generous donation
Leslie Yuan

Anna Stern
Mary Renner
Margaret Bruckner

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator

Mutual Disenchantment Pat Camarena



Idealistic Narcissa had decided at a very young age that she wished to become a missionary among the indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest. She was very disappointed when her Presbyterian church in New York state was not interested in applications from unmarried women. Narcissa discovered that, in order to enter the mission field, she would have to marry and accompany a man. An acquaintance, Dr. Marcus Whitman, was planning to travel to the new territory of Oregon as a medical missionary. Their quickly arranged marriage was based on the assumption that Narcissa would go along as part of the missionary team. She became one of the first two white women to cross the Continental Divide of the Rockies by wagon. Eliza Spaulding was the other woman in the party.

Their 1836 journey turned out to be less difficult than what many pioneers who came later were to experience. The Whitman's final destination was near Ft. Walla Walla in what is now in the state of Washington. It was here that the Whitmans established their mission compound and began their attempts to teach the gospel to the local Cayuse people.

Disenchantment soon set in on both sides. Narcissa, who cared deeply about books, intellectual conversation, and other embellishments of Christian culture was less appreciative of the tribal ways. She was greatly disillusioned to find that the local tribe members were not enthusiastic about adopting Christianity. Dr. Whitman's medical ability was more attractive initially but in time the tribal leaders became skeptical of this competing medicine man.

The Whitman's attempts to "help" the Cayuse began to spiral downward further after the drowning death of two year old Alice Whitman. Narcissa went into a period of deep depression, especially after Marcus left her for almost a year, including the isolation of winter. Even the adoption of seven orphaned children did not remove her depression.

As more pioneers poured into the Oregon Territory, the Whitmans found themselves treating more white patients and less of the Cayuse. A measles epidemic brought by the wagon trains began killing a great many more native children. The Cayuse became increasingly convinced that the Whitmans were poisoning their young. Sadly the initial well-meaning effort to improve the life of the Cayuse people culminated violently when the native warriors attacked the mission killing fourteen white settlers including both of the Whitmans.

Rather than Marcus, Narcissa is better remembered today in the Northwest because of her extensive journals describing her four month overland trip and her eleven years in the Oregon

Territory. Her death made news throughout America.

Whitman College, a small private liberal arts college founded in 1859 in Walla Walla, bears their name today. Their motto is: "Through adversities I rise."

www.womenhistoryblog.com
www.notablebiographies.com
www.whitman.edu

Playing Now Paula Campbell

Don't miss the laugh filled, thought provoking, X rated (if puppet sex counts) New Conservatory Theatre Company's production of **Avenue Q**. It's a must see!

For anyone who doesn't know, **Avenue Q** has a mixed cast – some humans, some puppets (the Sesame Street type, not marionettes). It's the saga of a young man just out of college, who rents an apartment on Avenue Q and becomes a part of the lives of the folks who inhabit it.

What's amazing about **Avenue Q** is that it's never stale; the issues it raises are as pertinent now as when it was first produced in 2003. A look at some of the song titles will show you what I mean -- the show's opener "What do you do with a BA in English?" is a question many new college grads ask, "Everyone's a little bit racist" prompts us all to question our values, "It sucks to be me" is a ballad to our personal insecurities and how we sometimes wallow in self-pity, "The internet is for porn" – well the title says it without needing explanation, "You can be as loud as you want when you're having sex", is also self-explanatory. And if you're

wondering about all the sex talk, be prepared to watch several vivid, varied sex scenes – in which the participants are puppets. Until you've met the flamboyant café singer Lucy the Slut, you just don't know how funny sex can be. And on a very serious note, the rousing "Schadenfreude" reminds us that we all share some very basic human weaknesses.

This is the fifth year NCTC has made **Avenue Q** their holiday show. That makes five times I've seen it there, three times I've see other productions – a total of eight. And I never get tired of seeing it – it's always an absolute delight – witty, sparkling, touching. The current production has updated a few things, the mix tape one person gives another is now a CD – small things like that. But the idea is the same – we are all in search of love and security, we are all fallible, sex shouldn't be inhibited, and having money never hurts.

What more can I say – I listen to the CD in my car, I look forward to the NCTC production each year – I absolutely LOVE this show and I'm willing to wager you will too, so don't miss it.

Avenue Q, New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Avenue at Market,
 San Francisco, CA 94102. Through Jan. 21. Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, and Sun 2pm.
 Box Office [415-861-8972](tel:415-861-8972) Online <http://www.nctcsf.org>

Berkeley Rep has taken a different approach to the holidays. Lillian Hellman's 1941 **Watch On the Rhine** is about as serious as playwriting gets. It sets us in a family in conflict. Leading comfortable affluent lives in D.C. suburb, the family, (mother and brother) is forced to question its values when their long gone (20 years) daughter returns home from Europe with her husband and children. Although the daughter tries to be vague about what's gone on in those years, we soon realize her husband is an anti-fascist activist who puts his life in danger in the defense of the country. That the years away were difficult and impoverished is

evidenced by the children's amazement that food is served three times a day. The family has a house guest, a European Count and his wife. It doesn't take long for son-in-law and audience to realize Count is a fascist, violent, poor, and willing to sell out anyone for a buck. And he's got a list of names he's eager to sell. The son-in-law, seeing the imminent danger of this responds appropriately. The moral dilemma isn't that he's killed him, but in how the family responds. Do they understand the terrible dangers that fascism is inflicting on Europe, and will, if unchecked, inflict here? Can they appreciate that the son-in-law is heroic, not murderous? Remember, in early 1941 the winds of war had not yet touched the U.S., but for those whose eyes stayed open, it was a question of when, not if, that would happen.

The production is well directed by Lisa Peterson, and immaculately costumed by Raquel Barreto. Neil Patel's gorgeous set is worthy of Broadway – absolutely fabulous. The period is evoked by every piece of furniture, by the seam in every woman's stocking. It's a rare treat. The acting is perfect, each character clearly comes to life in a totally real way. Sadly, Hellman's language itself is stilted and uncomfortable. It's not that people spoke so differently in the 1940's – it's that no one ever spoke the way these characters do. The unnatural language is hard to hear. The audience gets used to it, I suppose, but it's still hard to deal with in a play that purports to be natural but sounds didactic.

Watch On the Rhine is a three act play, presented here with an intermission between the first two acts, and a five minute break between what were acts two and three. The audience is told there will be a five minute "pause" during which they can stand at their seats to stretch legs, but are advised not to leave the theatre. This in itself is off putting, but what makes it worse is that the actors are onstage during the pause – walking on and off, doing various bit of business. The stage lights are

dimmed but the audience sees the actors quite clearly, and in the dimly lit house the actors can see the audience as well but need to maintain concentration. I don't think this works well for audience or actors.

The play raises interesting questions about patriotism and family ties, and Lillian Hellman is not a playwright to leave those unanswered. Her intentions are clear, her beliefs unwavering. It's a bit like being hit in the head with a hammer. It certainly gets one's attention, but it can be hard to sit through.

Watch on the Rhine, through Jan.14. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley
 Tickets: Box office: 510 647-2949 Online
<http://www.berkeleyrep.org>
 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Wed, Sun 7pm, Sat., Sun, 2pm.

January Birthdays

Jane Bernard Powers	January 1
Susan Kwock	January 5
Wanda Holland Greene	January 8
Leslie Yuan	January 10
Jean Feeney	January 10
Terese Terry	January 27

Birthday Not Announced?

If your birthday is not here and you'd like to have it included (or corrected), contact the Membership VP.

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January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon	10	11	12	13
14	15 Intern'l Book Group 7 pm	16	17	18	19 Aft w/Books 1:30pm	20 Women's Rally March 12:30 pm
21	22	23	24	25 Myst/Adv 7:30 pm	26	27
28	29	30	31	29	30	31

Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.
 C.S.Lewis



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.