

President's Message



Our trusty volunteers interviewed 36 girls who applied to go to Tech Trek camp this summer and then had to make some difficult decisions about whom to select. Thanks to our wonderful donors we will be sending 14 girls to camp! Our sendoff party for the Tech Trek campers will be held on May 20, so save the date!

Our branch is sending Samantha Rose Fischer to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in late May. Samantha is a Tech Trek alumna who contacted us when she was beginning college at San Francisco State. She has helped us ever since with Tech Trek in many ways — interviewing, assisting with events, and sharing her enthusiasm. We have heard great reports about this national conference and are sure that Samantha will enjoy and benefit from it.

The AAUW State Convention will be held in Irvine on April 27-29. Kelly Joseph and I will attend. We will get to meet the new CEO of AAUW National, Kimberly Churches, and confer with State Co-Presidents-Elect Cathy Foxhoven and Jane Niemeier at a leadership brunch.

You may have read announcements that the national dues are increasing by \$10 this year. Our branch is fortunate to have financial backing that was set up by leaders in the past that enables us to maintain our dues at the current \$80 level, which results in the branch receiving only \$1.00 out of the total dues paid. I'm sure our dues are lower than any other California branch. This financial backing has also enabled our branch to donate \$5,000 to the Tech Trek camps this year and last year for needed equipment and supplies. Our annual lunches in December and June are also partially subsidized. Thus, we members of the San Francisco Branch receive much in return for our dues.

April 10 is Equal Pay Day this year. This is the symbolic day when women's earnings catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. The overall pay disparity of 80 cents for women to men's \$1.00 is bad, but things are even worse for women of color. The 2018 Equal Pay Days are broken down as follows: February 22 for Asian American women; April 10 for all women; April 17 for white women; August 7 for African American women, September 27 for Native women, and November 1 for Latina women. AAUW has been working on pay equity for years and continues to do so on many fronts.

Finally, please save the following dates:

May 20 — Tech Trek Send-Off party for branch members and Tech Trekkers and their families.

June 9 - Annual Branch Meeting Luncheon at Mescolanza Restaurant.

Barbara Spencer, President

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, April 11, 2018**, 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, April 20, 2018 at 1:30 PM

Book/Author: Hillbilly Elegy, by J.D. Vance

Hostess: Connie Armitage, 1962 16 Ave.

Please RSVP to Connie at 415-681-2110 or conniearmitage@yahoo.com

International Book Group

Date: Monday, April 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: Exit West, by Mohsin Hamid

Hostess: Nancy Shapiro, 1683 42 Ave.

Please RSVP to Nancy at 415-731-2654 or nancy.shapiro@comcast.net

Mystery/Adventure Book Group

Date/Time: April 26, 2018 at 7:30 PM:

Book/Author: **Transcendental Murder**, by Jane Langdon

Hostess: Elaine Butler 124 Amber Dr.

Reviewer: Beth Wells

RSVP: Elaine 415-305-2220 or

elainebutler124@comcast.net

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at noon

Restaurant: Pacific Catch

1200 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way

RSVP to Mary Suter, marsuter@yahoo.com

Save the Date

BALLOT ISSUES DISCUSSION

Date: Tuesday, May 29 at 7 PM

Place: At the home of Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona St.

A discussion of the issues on the June Ballot with

Joel Engardio

Please RSVP to Sheila at 415-823-0961

or wawonast@earthlink.net

Tech Trek

Save the Date

TECH TREK CAMPERS SEND-OFF!!

Sunday, May 20th, 2-4 pm

at Sports Basement on Bryant St.

A 20% discount will be offered to all attendees.

Tech Trek Process

Many thanks to our members and Alums who gave their weekend to interview 36 girls. Kelly Joseph developed a better system of time management which shortened our day.



Great second day of interviewing girls for Tech Trek math and science camp.



Also thanks to Support for Families of Children with Disabilities. They gave us interview rooms free of charge.

The Tech Trek Team

March Tech Trek Donors

Jane Hansen

Thank you! We couldn't do this program without members like you.

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator

Silver Jubilee

AUW-SF will offer scholarships of \$2000 each to help upper division and graduate school women complete their final year of study in an accredited college or university for the school year 2018-2019. Candidates must live or be attending college within a 100 mile distance of San Francisco and be on track to complete their course of study by June 2019. There is no restriction on the use of the funds. Completed applications are due by April 30, 2018.

Branch Events

As President of the San Francisco Branch of AAUW we would like to invite you and all branch members to our 46th Annual Home Tour on April 21, 2018, in Jackson, California. We have ordered awesome Spring weather to showcase a perfect Sierra Foothill road trip to Amador County. We will greatly appreciate any support you could give us in getting the word out.

Proceeds from the tour benefit the Amador Branch scholarship program for local girls and women. Junior high girls have opportunities to attend Tech Trek, and scholarships are provided each year at the community college and upper division levels.

Tickets are available by mail after March 16, 2018. For more information refer to the attached information or visit our website, call or email:

amador-ca.aauw.net/home-tour

chapman@volcano.net

(209) 245-6052

Activism At Its Best

Pat Camarena



Known worldwide for seventy years of her leadership in environmentalism, Marjory was especially recognized for her early understanding of the fragility of Florida's unique Everglades. As a journalist and fiction writer, she sought to convince the public that the survival of the earth's

ecosystem was dependent on increased respect for nature.

In the 1920s Marjory left behind a career in newspaper journalism to devote her energies to writing fiction. Her stories were soon published in the Saturday Evening Post along with Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and other giants of the twenties.

At the time, South Florida piqued national curiosity among readers since it was unique as a largely unsettled territory on the East Coast...a sort of ecological frontier. With plots involving hurricanes, Seminoles, and smugglers, Marjory drew themes of destruction and the futility of working against nature rather than with it. She is best known for her 1947 nonfiction book titled "The Everglades, River of Grass".

For the rest of her long life, this Wellesley graduate continued to produce novels, a history, and many other works, including poetry. In her eighties, she headed the University of Miami Press. In her nineties, she wrote her autobiography. As her form varied, so did her ideas. She was not limited to only discussing environmental issues. Her themes demonstrated a world vision of long-term harmony based on respect for differing cultures as well as nature. Provincial prejudices, the profit-minded and those exploiters seeking power through violence were common subjects. For example, hoping to influence women's fashion choices, she used fiction to portray the horror of killing tropical birds to adorn fashionable hats.

Perhaps both because her interests were more local than global and because, through her father, she was connected with the state's most powerful newspaper, she did not suffer the vicious attacks that were made on other environmentalists. Even into her nineties, she continued to campaign for environmentalist candidates. MS magazine chose her as a woman of the year in the 1980s. She was honored on her one hundredth birthday in ceremonies in the Florida Senate. The full name of this powerhouse of a woman was Marjory

Stoneman Douglas. She encouraged people who strongly believed in whatever their cause to be a nuisance and never give up. Two Florida schools bear her name today. One of them is a high school in Parkland. Thanks to Marjory activism is still going strong in the hearts and minds of a whole new generation of citizens..

[www;.brainyquotes.com](http://www.brainyquotes.com)

[www.;scholar.library.miami.edu](http://www.scholar.library.miami.edu)

[www:nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Playing Now Paula Campbell

Two reviews today, **both definite must sees.**

Let's start with SF Playhouse's **The Effect**. Directed by Bill English, co-founder of the SFPlayhouse along with his wife Susie Damilano, who plays the female lead, **The Effect** is about a drug trial. Damilano is the doctor who deals with the trial subjects on a daily basis. The drug under examination is an anti-depressant, whose side effects and efficacy are still unknown. The two trial subjects we meet, Tristan and Connie, are wonderfully fleshed out by Joe Estlack and Ayelet Firstenberg. The two become friends, then lovers, entirely breaking the protocols of the study. In any drug trial the question is always how much of what the subjects experience is due to the drug, and how much is simply their own personal imagined response. For this reason, most trails are double blind, in which half of the participants receive placebos. So the elements are unstable to start with. Add to this a doctor who is unsure of herself, eager, too eager to connect with her subjects, whose cheating on the trial rules becomes known to her. As the subjects' drug doses are increased and they experience ever more distressing symptoms, the doctor finds it hard to maintain professional distance. The fact that she's

had a previous romantic involvement with the doctor who heads the study doesn't help her remain objective. It's a recipe for disaster.

It's hard to imagine what it must be like to be in a clinical trial for a psychotropic drug. Phones are confiscated, relationships with other participants are forbidden, one is left alone, isolated for weeks on end, while trying to figure out how the drug is affecting them. Or is what they feel not from the drug at all – are they getting a placebo – what feelings are genuine, which caused by the drug? That's enough to send participants off the deep end right there.

The play is engaging and keeps the audience on the edge of their seats. Playwright Lucy Prebble has garnered all sorts of big time awards in her native England, as well as in the U.S. She's written series for HBO and Showtime. She's a playwright on her way up, and we're fortunate to get such a production of her work here in SF.

The Effect is engrossing, emotion grabbing, and kind of scary when you think about that this is actually how our drugs are tested and realize how much can go wrong during the trial.

The Effect, through April 28. 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://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/get-tickets/> Tues-Wed-Thurs 7pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm, (some) Suns 2pm.

And now for something completely different – the very funny, very serious, very ambiguous, absolutely rousing **Vietgone**, now at ACT's Strand Theatre. To sum – the play is about Vietnamese rescued at the fall of Saigon, living in a refugee camp at Fort Chaffee in Arkansas. Doesn't that sound simple – and maybe dull? Forget such preconceived notions. **Vietgone** is one of the most

exciting, challenging, thrilling theatrical experiences of the past year. If you only see one or two plays a year, see this one! Written partly in rap monologues, partly in heartbreaking aria-like ballads, performed by actors who double, sometimes triple in the roles they play, **Vietgone** never falters; it's innovative, clever, brilliantly written and brilliantly performed. I suddenly realized what I was seeing was a Vietnamese **Hamilton**. All the special elements that make Hamilton such a hit are on stage now in **Vietgone**. I don't want to use any spoilers – just know that this is more than a show – it's an experience.

Vietgone is directed by Jaime Castenada, who doesn't shy away from the open but firm hand the play requires. The six person cast is amazing, with special kudos to the leading actors James Seol and Jenelle Chu. Que Nguyen, the author, comes out and talks to the audience before the show starts. He tells us he's here on stage at the Strand to tell us about what we're going to see. He bickers with another actor who comes on stage. It becomes clear that what we're about to see is different – maybe not what we expect in theatre, certainly far from the usual. Then the stage goes dark, and when the lights come up, we're in Saigon.

It's hard to characterize **Vietgone**. Some of the publicity calls it a road trip comedy. Nothing could be further from the truth. I've tried to convey what a unique and terrific show this is. It just doesn't fit into conventional descriptors. What it is -- is a totally amazing piece, don't miss it.

Vietgone, A.C.T.'s Strand Theater 1127 Market Street.
 Tickets: Box Office 415.749.2228 online: <https://tickets.act-sf.org/online/>
 Tues – Sat @ 7:30 Wed, Sat, some Sundays @ 2:00.

April Birthdays

Patricia Arango

April 1

Joanne Mandel	April 6
Holly Millar	April 21
Roberta Guise	April 28

Birthday Not Announced?

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

AAUW INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

Since 1917 AAUW has awarded International Fellowships—developing global leaders in business, politics, academia, technology, innovation, arts, and sciences. Through expertise, activism, mentoring, and collaboration these women advance AAUW's mission of gender equity for girls and women worldwide.

From harboring women academics persecuted by totalitarian regimes during World War II to developing leaders in [business](#), [higher education](#), [science](#), and [technology](#), AAUW International Fellowships have supported some [outstanding players](#) in the global struggle for equality for all women and girls.

Since 1917, the International Fellowships program has funded more than 3,600 women representing 145 countries. The program was expanded in 1999 to include [International Project Grants](#), which are awarded to International Fellowship alumnae to launch [community-based projects](#) in their home countries. For the 2017–18 academic year, more than \$1 million will be awarded in International Fellowships.

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April 2018

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

Long ago, I made up my mind that when things were said involving only me, I would pay no attention to them, except when valid criticism was carried by which I could profit.

Eleanor Roosevelt



Avanti Editor

AAUW
 San Francisco Branch
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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.