

## President's Message



Kelly Joseph and I just returned from the AAUW California Convention held in Irvine. It was an excellent meeting and gave us much to think about. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Tech Trek program, and there was a Tech Trek alumnae gathering at the end of the convention. We were delighted to see the crowd gathered; girls and their families were lined up out the door. There were at least twice as many participants than had been expected. We heard from our beloved former national lobbyist Lisa Maatz who urged all of us “dangerously educated women” to keep up the fight. We also had a very dynamic presentation by the new national Chief Executive Officer Kim Churches who briefly discussed the proposed national bylaws that are currently up for vote.

There are three proposed bylaw changes: (1) to have staggered 3-year terms for members of the board of directors; (2) to allow 5 of the 15 directors to be nonmembers of AAUW; and (3) to remove any degree requirement for membership.

The rationale for allowing outside directors is to bring in people from outside AAUW who are prominent leaders in equity work and who could expand our impact. Once elected, or appointed, nonmembers would be encouraged to join AAUW. The Board Chair and Vice Chair would be required to be members of AAUW.

The degree requirement for membership has been challenged before and has evoked passionate responses. The argument advanced for the change is that the current membership requirement is at odds with our mission to advance equity for all women and girls and our efforts at inclusion and equity. It is counterproductive to recruiting a diverse membership and attracting support from corporations and foundations who view our requirement as exclusionary. What makes AAUW distinct is not our educational requirement for membership, but our abiding belief in ensuring every girl is empowered, and every woman can reach her full potential. There is a disconnect between our mission — to advance education and equity for women and girls — and a degree requirement that is a barrier to participation in the organization. There would be no need to change our name. The name AAUW was not changed when AAUW began accepting men as members or people who had a community college degree.

An example of the restriction on expanding our diversity arose at the convention when one of the presenters, an African-American woman who is on

the Riverside County Commission for Women and the Riverside YWCA Board of Directors, told us that she would be barred from AAUW membership by the degree requirement. A number of intelligent women simply did not have the opportunity for higher education.

All members with an email account should have received an email from AAUW national providing information on voting. If you vote online, you have from April 25 to June 9, 2019 to vote. For non-email members, you will need to call 800-326-2289 Monday-Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, to request a paper ballot. Requests for paper ballots must be received by May 7 and be postmarked by May 25, 2018.

Our State Board of Directors announced that they had voted to support the proposed national bylaw amendments. I urge everyone to carefully consider the issue and to be sure to vote.

Please note the following dates:

May 20 Tech Trek Send-Off Party at the Sports Basement. See further details inside.

June 9 Annual Meeting Luncheon and presentation of the Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award to Emma Mayerson, Founding Executive Director of Alliance for Girls. You will all receive a written invitation in the mail.

**Barbara Spencer, President**

### **AAUWSF Board Meeting**

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, May 9, 2018**, at Corrine Sacks', 1835 Franklin St. #401. Check with the doorman to see if there are any openings in the garage. Call her 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 Mary Suter know if you are unable to attend.

### **Afternoons With Books**

**Date: Friday, May 18, 2018 at 1:30 PM**

**Book/Author:** American Nations, by Colin Woodward

**Hostess:** Pat Spencer, 505 Ortega  
Please RSVP to Pat at 415-661-0347 or [cpbus66@gmail.com](mailto:cpbus66@gmail.com)

### **International Book Group**

**Date: Monday, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Book/Author:** Killers of the Flower Moon, by David Grann

**Hostess:** Paula Campbell, 338 Ewing Terrace  
Please RSVP to Paula at 415-567-1330 or [campbellp@usfca.edu](mailto:campbellp@usfca.edu)

### **Mystery/Adventure Book Group**

**Date/Time: May 24, 2018 at 7:30 PM:**

**Book/Author:** Time of Fog and Fire, by Rhys Bowen

**Hostess:** Sandra Tye, 2960 21 Ave

**Reviewer:** Joanne Mandel

RSVP: Sandra at 415-566-0587 or [styesh@yahoo.com](mailto:styesh@yahoo.com)

### **Lunch Bunch**

**Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at noon**

**Restaurant:** Jiangnan Cuisine

3420 Balboa St (between 35 and 36 St in the Richmond)

**RSVP** to Mary Suter, [marsuter@yahoo.com](mailto:marsuter@yahoo.com)

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH  
ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, June 9, 2018, 12:00 pm  
Mescolanza Restaurant, 3750 Geary Blvd.**

**Honoring Emma Mayerson,**

Founding Executive Director of Alliance for  
Girls, Recipient of Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership  
Award

**Also recognizing this year's Silver Jubilee  
Scholarship awardees**

**MENU**

**First Course**

Mixed Green Salad  
or  
Caesar Salad

**Second Course**

Choice of Grilled Salmon with seasonal  
vegetables,  
or  
Veal al Marsala with seasonal vegetables,  
or  
Gnocchi Spinaci with tomato cream sauce

**Dessert**

Crema Caramella  
or Cioccolata con Amaretti

**Beverages**

Coffee, tea, or soda

Cost is \$35. Please make check payable to  
AAUW-SF, put entree choice on check, and mail  
to Barbara Spencer, 736 3rd Ave., SF 94118.  
**RSVP by June 3 and email entree choice to**  
[barbaraspencer@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraspencer@gmail.com) PayPal is also  
available.

**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](mailto:wawonast@earthlink.net)

**Tech Trek**

**TECH TREK CAMPERS SEND-OFF!!**

**DATE:** Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm

**PLACE:** Sports Basement 1590 Bryant St

This is your chance to meet the girls we are  
sponsoring to Tech Trek this year.  
Please join us and receive a 20% discount on items  
sold at Sports Basement.

**Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator**

**AAUW of California  
2018 Convention Report**

**By Kelly Wysinger-Joseph**

I attended the AAUW-CA conference this past  
weekend with our president, Barbara Spencer.  
What resonated with me was the message from

Kim Churches, AAUW's CEO, stating that we should not focus on gaining members, but developing



Kim Churches, AAUW CEO

partnerships to put our mission into action. We need to focus on empowering women and girls.

I learned about 50/50 Day, which occurred on April 26<sup>th</sup>. A gender equity discussion is the purpose of this day. See [www.letitriple.org](http://www.letitriple.org) for more information. "Character Day" is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We should discuss ways to participate and collaborate with other like-minded organizations.

The Women Peacebuilders informed us of 2 programs offered by the university of San Diego, which helps communities of peacebuilders from conflict-affected communities in order to end cycles of violence.

I was very impressed by the Speech Trek top 3 finalists, including a young man, who answered the question "How Can We Stand Up To Sexism?"

I will be using what I learned about leveraging social media to increase our FaceBook web presence.

Finally, there was a celebration of Tech Trek's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I didn't know that my daughter, Danielle, attended the first Tech Trek at Fresno State University. It was inspiring to see alumnae who were grateful for their experience and some are giving back by being counselors and even dorm mom's.

I am truly graceful for the exposure.



Social Media Workshop Selfie

## 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.

## Jumping At The Sun

Pat Camarena



Zora came into her own as a writer during the height of the Harlem Renaissance. Lasting roughly from the 1910s through the mid-1930s, this period is considered a golden age in African American culture. From 1910-1920 a large number of African Americans migrated northward. Zora was among them, coming to attend New York's Barnard College. She became the first black student there. This considerable population shift generated a great desire for art, literature, and music reflecting a black perspective. While previously attending Howard University studying anthropology, Zora had developed a life long interest in recording folklore. She was able to make many literary connects with both black and white mentors who encouraged her writing talents. Novelist Fannie Hurst helped Zora get her works published during the Depression.

Not without her critics, Zora saw herself as honestly recording what her anthropologist's ear heard, using the language she knew her fictional characters would have used. Royalties barely kept her going. The wartime forties did not improve her income.

Declining in popularity after a trumped up (but later dropped) morals accusation, Zora returned to Florida where she had been raised. Although she continued to publish minor pieces, she spent the

rest of her life working at jobs below her ability just to make ends meet. In spite of having to pawn her typewriter at one point, she never gave up thinking and working. After her death in 1960, a pauper's burial was only narrowly avoided through the fundraising efforts of the local black community.

Her literary popularity took a second jump into the sun in the 1980s. Since that time her plays have been revived in New York. Eatonville, Florida, where Zora grew up was the first incorporated all black city in America. Eatonville is featured in many of Zora's stories. Every year an annual festival of arts and humanities takes place there in her honor. This amazing lady was Zora Neale Hurston.

[www.poemhunter.com](http://www.poemhunter.com)

[www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com)

[www.zoranealehurston.com](http://www.zoranealehurston.com)

## Playing Now Paula Campbell

Get ready to be touched, amused, and a bit indignant – the New Conservatory Theatre Center production of Bathsbeba Doran's **The Mystery of Love and Sex** will provoke all three of these emotions – and lots more. It's a delightful romp into love, sex, and family values in the American South.

**The Mystery of Love and Sex** is a four character play. We meet teenage Charlotte, (Linda Maria Giron) her lifetime friend Jonny (Kenny Scott), and her parents, Howard (Dave Sikula) and Lucinda (Shay Oglesbury-Smith.) Charlotte and Jonny seem made for each other but there's just one problem – Jonny's gay – something which he realizes more each day, though he's still trying to deny it. The

parents consider Jonny a part of their family, but aren't quite ready to have a gay son, or son-in-law for that matter. Each of the two couples struggle with their own problems; their sexuality, social expectations, and racial and religious backgrounds. Jonny is black and Christian, Howard is Jewish (though Lucinda is not.) Talk about mixed couples – this is a double mix – quite a mashup. The younger couple's problems exacerbate those of the older couple, who have long considered separating. The teenagers have been besties since they were nine years old – sexual identity wasn't a problem then – but now they are college students and sex changes everything. They split and each follows his/her own desires. Not a spoiler -- but Charlotte's desires, once she acknowledges them, come as quite a surprise to everyone.

The play explores love, identity, keeping secrets, living up to other peoples' expectations, and the crushing weight these can have on our souls. Rebecca Longworth's expert direction uncovers nuance after nuance – as each couple faces who they really are and what they want, and finally understand that forgiveness heals – and love doesn't evaporate into the ether, but stays around, just waiting to be rediscovered.

FYI -- There's some brief, very brief, full frontal nudity – entirely innocent but be forewarned.

**The Mystery of Love and Sex** had its world premiere this year at Lincoln Center in NYC. Playwright Bathsheba Doran is the recipient of many awards for playwriting, and wrote on season two of the acclaimed HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*, and as writer/producer for SHO *Masters of Sex*.

**The Mystery of Love and Sex**, through May 20. New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Avenue at Market, San Francisco, CA 94102. Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Sun 2pm. Box Office [415-861-8972](tel:415-861-8972) Online <http://www.nctcsf.org>  
Tues – Sat @ 7:30 Wed, Sat, some Sundays @ 2:00.

## May Birthdays

Delores Schoen	May 8
Lois Roberts	May 15
Mary Bruns	
Capdevielle Ascher	May 16
Lisa Aquino	May 18
Phyllis Hunt	May 23

### Birthday Not Announced?

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



**AAUWSF Board**

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 415)341-0206

**May 2018**

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

*Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.*  
**Dr. Seuss**



**Avanti Editor**

AAUW  
 San Francisco Branch  
 P.O. Box 31405  
 San Francisco, CA 94131-0405  
 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](http://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.