

SUMMER IN SAN FRANCISCO**President's Message**

As I write this column the heat is on in my house in the midst of our San Francisco summer. Although I complain about the wind and fog, it is by far preferable to the 100-plus heat and wildfires suffered by many in our state.

July marks the beginning of our membership year in AAUW. Our year is a fiscal one from July 1 to June 30, and we are now in the process of soliciting

membership renewal dues. In the last fiscal year we had 75 members, but so far this year we have dues from only 46 members. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership online at aauw.org or write a check to AAUW-SF for \$80 and mail it to our P.O. Box 31405, San Francisco, CA 94131. Our dues have stayed the same for a number of years, and the bulk of them go to fund the national programs, such as Work Smart/Start Smart, research reports, and lobbying. I hope you feel you are getting your money's worth. Our perennial cry in the dark about the pay gap has finally become a nationally recognized issue, thanks in large part to the stellar research done by

AAUW that backs up claims advanced by public figures.

Your branch officers will be meeting on Saturday, August 4 at 10 am at my house to discuss and plan activities for this year. Please let me or any other officer know if you have ideas or desires for new programs or if you would like to attend. There is much more that could be done if anyone is interested in taking the lead.

Our fledgling Lunch Bunch program has a core group of 6-8 people. We welcome anyone who wants to come, and no commitment is required. We meet at different restaurants on the second Tuesday of the month. The last lunch was at Dragon Beaux, a newish dim sum restaurant that often has lines of people waiting outside. We did not have to wait and enjoyed a delicious dim sum lunch.



Our Tech Trek camps have finished for this year. Watch for an announcement of our Welcome Back branch meeting that will feature reports from our campers.

Barbara Spencer, President

Afternoons With Books

There will be no meeting in August!

Please start to select books for next year. We will meet on September 21 to make the choices.

International Book Group

Date: Monday, August 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles

Hostess: Mary Graves, 2901 Broderick St.

Please RSVP to Mary at 415-563-3610 or marywgraves@comcast.net

Mystery/Adventure Book Group

Date/Time: August 23, 2018 at 7:30 PM:

Book/Author: Bone Box, by Faye Kellerman

Hostess: Barbara Cohrssen, 2970 Pine St

Reviewer: Barbara Cohrssen

RSVP: Barbara at 415-775-0632

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at noon

Restaurant: El BuenComer, Mexican and Brunch
3435 Mission St near Cortland

RSVP for reservations to Mary Suter,
marsuter@yahoo.com

Tech Trek

Our happy campers at Camp Curie 2018



Pat Camarena

Pat has dislocated her wrist, and cannot type. We will miss her article this month.

With her permission, we may re-post an older article until she is able to type again.

We wish her the best and hope she heals well.

Playing Now Paula Campbell

SFPlayhouse's production of Stephen Sondheim's **Sunday in the Park with George** is a winner. So was the show itself from its Broadway opening in 1984 through its many revivals. The Broadway production won the 1985 [Pulitzer Prize for Drama](#), two [Tony Awards](#) for design, numerous [Drama Desk Awards](#); the 1991 London production won [Olivier Award](#) for Best Musical and the 2007 Revival the [Olivier Award](#) for Outstanding Musical Production. The book, by James Lapine, is as vivid as it was then, never dated or trite.

I saw the original production in New York with Bernadette Peters and Mandy Patinkin. I went to the SFPlayhouse production with memories of the NY show, fearing that it would pale by comparison. Boy, was I wrong. The SFPlayhouse production is dynamite – the acting, singing, choreography (by Kimberly Richards) are all stellar. Under Bill English's brilliant direction and amazing stage sets, the story is moving, infuriating, and always engaging.

In brief **Sunday is the Park...** is the story of the painter Georges Seurat. Seurat developed a new style of painting, juxtaposing dots of different colors that the human eye would see as solid single

colors. In short, he found new information about how the human eye works, and how color is perceived. Sadly he was totally unrecognized in his day, never had an exhibition of his work, and died at the age of 31. His best known painting, the huge (another strike against it to his contemporaries) [A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte](#), the picture on which the show is based, is familiar to most of us now.

The first act takes place in the park [on the Island of La Grande Jatte](#), and in Seurat's studio. The backdrop is the painting, with the actors standing in front of it in tableau. The figures – the people themselves – then come to life – they sing of their lives, their loves, their intrigues. Dot, George's model and mistress poses for him, tries to engage him emotionally, but Seurat is only concerned with his work; his focus is too intense to allow any personal distractions. He is uninterested when Dot reveals her pregnancy and she eventually gives up on him and marries a devoted suitor who is happy to raise the child as his own. The act opens as it started with the painting as the backdrop, and the characters in their positions in front of the painting in tableau.

After Intermission, we are first back at the tableau, the characters sing and speak, we learn of Seurat's death and Dot's move to America. Then the stage clears, and we are in today's world. We meet George, a young artist who wants to break barriers and create a whole new visual arts form. We understand that he is Seurat's great grandson, though he doesn't really understand this yet. We meet his grandmother Marie, who is Dot's daughter. There's an exhibit of George's new mechanistic art form the "Chromolune". He is invited to present it in Paris. Marie tells him who he really is. George goes to Paris, presents his art machine, realizes he needs to do more with his art and winds up on the Island. The picture fills the background, the characters appear and reanimate

their roles, then leave and the picture goes blank. George is left to find his art his own way.

Stephen Sondheim is one of the great musical composers of our day. The music of **Sunday is the Park...** is beyond reckoning, so moving, so powerful – concert versions of this show are often performed. Some of the music is echoed in his next show **Into the Woods**, particularly the songs, No One is Alone, and Children are Listening, which BTW also starred Bernadette Peters.

Sunday is the Park... is simply a beautiful show – and this is a great production. I urge you to see it.

n.b. Bear in mind that the show is fiction – Seurat left no living children, and many details of his life are imagined. Can we all say “Artistic license” ?

Sunday in the Park with George, through Sept.8.
SFPlayhouse 450 Post Street
Kensington Park Hotel, (2 floor) between Mason and Powell.
Tickets: Box Office 415-677-9596 Online:
<https://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/get-tickets/>
Tues-Wed-Thurs 7pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm, (some) Suns 2pm.



August Birthdays

Peg Jackson	August 10
Elizabeth Ray	August 15
Yvonne Steffen	August 19
Persis Ainey	August 23
Nancy Shapiro	August 25
Kathlyn Hart Alford	August 25
Laurel Lyman	August 29

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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August 2018

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	17	18
19	20 Intern'l Book Group 7 pm	21	22	23 Myst/Adv Bk 7:30pm	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

A clever person solves a problem. A wise person avoids it.

Albert Einstein



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.