



### President's Message

The holiday season is again upon us. Our branch holiday luncheon on December 1 was a lovely event. We are grateful to Mescolanza Restaurant for opening up just for our luncheon. Be sure to mention AAUW when you go there.

By now you have probably heard that all but three members of the Paradise AAUW branch have lost their homes. Our rules do not allow our branch as an organization to make donations to them, but we may do so as individuals. Gift cards for food and goods would be much appreciated and may be sent to the state AAUW office at AAUW California, 1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833. The officer manager will send them to a contact in the Paradise branch for distribution.

Our hearts go out to all who were touched by the fire.

Elaine Butler and I met with the director of one of the Stanford Tech Trek camps and learned that both camps are planning to have a robotics course for all campers. **The only catch is that they need to raise \$28,000 for the equipment and course.** Robotics has been a great favorite of the girls, but it has not been offered in the past few years because the equipment wore out. Please let me or Elaine Butler know if you have any leads on possible funding from companies or foundations. We would love to see robotics back in the curriculum. There are also a number of opportunities to volunteer during the camp sessions. Further details will be provided later.

Once again, I want to remind everyone that Tech Trek donation checks should be made payable to AAUW-CA-SPF and given to Elaine Butler or Barbara who will send them to the camp treasurers who in turn forward them to the SPF Fund. The Special Projects Fund (SPF) is a 501(c)(3) entity set up by AAUW California to receive tax deductible donations. When it is time to pay the camp tuition, the SPF fund will send the money to the camps. **Please do not make any Tech Trek donations online on the national AAUW website** because our branch will not get credited with those donations.

Roli Wendorf and Kelly Joseph have been working with the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women on getting our branch involved in the rollout of the AAUW Work Smart program in the San Francisco area. The goal is to train 20,000 women in our area. Free workshops will be presented over the course of the next year, but anyone may get the same training for free online. Please tell friends, colleagues, and everyone you know about the wonderful opportunity.

Finally, a few dates to keep in mind: There will be an Interbranch Council meeting in Burlingame on February 2, 2019, at which Kathleen Cha will discuss international women's efforts. The state annual meeting will be held April 6, 2019 in San Diego.

Warm wishes to all,  
**Barbara Spencer, President**

### **AAUWSF Board Meeting**

There will be no board meeting in December.

### **Afternoons With Books**

There will be no meeting in December. Our next meeting is January 16, when we will be discussing Educated, by Tara Westover.

### **International Book Group**

There will be no meeting in December. Our next meeting is January 21, when we will be discussing The Tattooist of Auschwitz, by Heather Morris.

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

#### **Holiday Party and Potluck**

**Date/Time: December 13, 2018 at 6:30 pm**

**Book & Author:** The Perfect Assassin, by Ward Larsen

**Hostess:** Joanne Bellan, 2466 23 Ave.

**Reviewer:** Barbara Cohrsen

RSVP: Joanne at 415-664-2366

Also, this year we have added a **White Elephant Gift Exchange**. Bring something to re-gift!

### **Lunch Bunch**

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at noon**

**Restaurant:** The Magic Flute

3673 Sacramento St

Italian/California Fare

Something special for the holidays!

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

### **AAUW HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

A celebratory time was had by all who attended our Annual Holiday Luncheon. We caught up on the year's activities and shared the highlights of the past year, both personal and branch news.

For those who missed it, mark your calendars for 2019!



### Salary Negotiation News

AAUW-SF is working on the national goal of training 10 million women to negotiate their financial futures by 2022.

Roli Wendorf and Kelly Joseph are our branch Work Smart and Start Smart facilitators.

AAUW Work Smart helps you negotiate your salary for a new job, raise, or promotion. AAUW Start

Smart is designed to help you negotiate your salary at a new job.

Roli and Kelly had a wonderful planning conversation with Verna Liza Cabo, Executive Director of Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Friends have partnered with AAUW to offer salary negotiation workshops. We want to ensure that our membership, as well as other local branches have access to the workshops and can also become facilitators. Our plan is to have workshops scheduled in the first quarter of 2019.

### Helping Paradise

We are sure that you have seen news of the destruction of the city of Paradise. Of the 45 Paradise members all except for three (Mary Peterson, Linda Menicucci, and Carol Holzgrafe) know or think they have lost their homes based on an email from branch member Carol Holzgrafe.

We realize that we can't use any branch or state money to help our members who lost their homes, but we encourage you to publish something to your branch members to urge individuals to help.

There are three ways members can personally provide assistance:

1. **Members can donate gift cards** to stores such as Target, Penny's, Macy's, K Mart, CVS, Rite Aid, Safeway, Walmart, Raley's etc.

**To speed things up gift cards may be sent directly to Carol Holtzgrafe c/o Lawton, 1112 Bidwell Ave., Chico, CA 95926. She will distribute them to those in need.**

2. **Paradise members are in need of housing** in Northern California. If you have any information about rentals please contact Carol Holzgrafe at 530-774- 30-774-4009 or email her at [carol@holzgrafe.com](mailto:carol@holzgrafe.com).

### 3. Donate through recognized 501(c)(3) organizations

- [Nvcf.org](http://Nvcf.org). The North Valley Community Foundation.
- For animals: [Nvadg.org](http://Nvadg.org). The North Valley Animal Disaster Group. Jane Niemeier and Cathy Foxhoven

AAUW CA Co-Presidents

### Transportation Inequality Pat Camarena



About one hundred years before Rosa Parks made her well-known bus ride in Montgomery, Alabama, there was a similar but lesser known civil rights milestone that occurred on a New York City streetcar. Both involved young African American women who took a risky stand for equality.

Following the abolition of slavery in New York in 1827, New York City developed into one of the largest pre-Civil War metropolitan concentrations of free African-Americans. Many institutions such as schools, newspapers, periodicals, churches, and literary societies were formed to support the needs of this growing community.

Into this society was born Elizabeth Jennings in 1827. Her father and mother were prominent civic supporters and raised their family to be involved citizens in whatever way they could as adults. Her father, a tailor, had developed a new method of dry-cleaning. He was the first known African-

American to be awarded an U.S. government patent. With this award, he bought his wife's freedom and was able to provide a good education for his children. Elizabeth's mother was an active member of the ladies literary and discussion group. By their own example, both parents passed on to their children their belief in the importance of standing up for their civic rights.

When Elizabeth grew up, she became a school teacher. She also served as the organist in the congregational church that the family attended. One Sunday morning in 1854 on her way to the church in lower Manhattan, she realized that she was running late. She decided to ride a horse-drawn streetcar that was passing. Being a private company, owners and drivers could refuse service to anyone. They also enforced segregated seating. Falsely saying that there was no room for her, the conductor ordered Elizabeth to get off. When she refused he tried forcibly to remove her. He roughed her up in the process.

This incident led to a concerted effort by the black community to end racial discrimination on public street cars. Frederick Douglas published her story in his newspaper. This article brought national attention to the incident. A lawsuit was filed against the company. Elizabeth was represented by an up-and-coming young lawyer, and many years later our 21st President, Chester A. Arthur. No boycott resulted as in the case of Rosa Parks' bus ride.

However in the following year a court ruled in Elizabeth's favor and awarded her damages. The next day the railroad company ordered its cars desegregated. Finally in 1865 after other such lawsuits against several additional transportation companies, all the public buses and railway cars became fully desegregated.

Elizabeth went on with her life, married, became a mother, and lived for a time in New Jersey. Moving back to New York City after her husband's death, she established and operated the

city's first kindergarten for black children in her home.

Just as Rosa Parks' actions in Montgomery in 1955 led to important changes for black citizens, Elizabeth's last minute decision to ride the street car to church led to better treatment for the black citizens of New York. Other important civil rights inequalities were still a long way off from being addressed. Elizabeth's actions that day in 1854 was just one small but important step forward.

[www.blackspot.org](http://www.blackspot.org)  
[www.missedinhistory.com](http://www.missedinhistory.com)  
[www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com)

### Playing Now Paula Campbell

Some wonderful plays this review period. I'll start with **The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley**, now at Marin Theatre Company. If you can see only one show this holiday, see this one! But, if you can squeeze in another, see

#### **A Bronx Tale**.

Some background – in 2016 MTC premiered Lauren Gunderson's and Margot Melcon's **Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley**, which was based on Jane Austin's **Pride and Prejudice**. It focused on the loves and lives of the rich, (or sometimes impoverished) upper class. The play became the third best selling title among audiences across the country, and is in the national top ten of plays produced two years in a row. I saw it – it was beyond wonderful – it was magical! Inspired in part by this huge success, Gunderson and Melcon decided to write another Pemberley play, this one focused on the servants' lives.

Set in the downstairs servant's hall, beautifully designed by Wilson Chin, and masterfully directed by Megan Sandberg-Zakian, **The Wickhams** is simply brilliant. The entire ensemble cast excels,

the costumes are spot on, and the plot – well, suffice it to say that the good are rewarded and the bad get just what they deserve. And the audience even learns something. There's a detailed explanation in the program about property rights, marriage and divorce during the Regency period in England. In brief, at marriage women lose all rights – to their property, to their bodies, to their freedom, to their selfhood. They become their husbands' property to do what he wants with and treat or mistreat as he wants. This is background for what happens on stage, when the much put upon Lydia, married to the absolute scoundrel Wickham, finally gets the information that allows her to divorce him – information which also kills any love she has left for him so that after all she's been through she finally WANTS to divorce him.

While entire production is top notch, I want to single out a few actors for special praise -- Jennie Brick, who plays the housekeeper with the kind of restraint that keeps the character real and never falls in stereotype or bathos, Melisa Ortiz, who plays the mistress of the house with cool dignity wrapped around kindness and compassion, and Neiry Rojo, whose character is the latest addition to the downstairs staff, and who must pick her way carefully among the many possible pitfalls and avoid with care and with tact. The whole cast excels; I found the actors exceptional.

Don't miss **The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley**. It's selling out, and has been extended for two extra weeks, so you can get tickets. I think it's one of the best things I've seen this year.

**The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley**, Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, through Dec. 16.  
 Tickets: Box Office 415-388-5209 Online:  
<https://www.marintheatre.org/productions/the-wickhams-christmas-at-pemberley#tickets> Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat  
 7:30 pm, Sat, Sun 2pm.

Let's move on the next show, [Chaz Palminteri's \*\*A Bronx Tale\*\*](#), a musical now playing at the Golden Gate Theatre. I must admit I have a soft spot for this show. Having seen and loved the one man show and film of [A Bronx Tale](#), how could I not like the musical?

The plot is semi-autobiographical. Calogero, the main character, growing up in the Bronx, is mentored by a Mafioso, who in fact treats him with love and kindness, but didn't spare him from seeing the violence and brutality. As he gets older he's torn between his father who wants to get him away from the gangster and the lifestyle he offers, and the gangster himself, who actually does "love him like a son", a phrase frequently used with praise and/or scorn depending on who's speaking. The young man finally doesn't have to choose – his gangster mentor chooses for him, telling him to give up the thug life and making it clear there is no good future in it. He's shot to death not long after, which certainly clears up any doubts the young man still have had. How much of this truth, and how much fiction is hard to say. Chaz went straight, became an actor, playwright, and producer and has had many successful productions. His one man show ([A Bronx Tale](#)) was seen by Robert De Niro, who suggested making it into film, with him as director. This began a lifetime relationship between the men. He was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, and several other awards, for his work in Woody Allen's film [Bullets Over Broadway](#).

The musical is directed by Jerry Zaks and Robert De Niro, with a real instinct for the life that's shown us. The music enhances the story and helps move it along. The acting is beyond real – it's genuine -- the two male leads are played by the same actors that played them on Broadway, Joey Barbara and Richard Blake. Frankie Leoni, who plays Calogero as a child, displays none of the sometimes cloying

child actor habits, and creates a real kid, leading a real life. Joey Barreiro is the young adult Coalgero, and is perfect in the role.

I loved the set, a series of scrims showing the street where he grows up, the apartment house and their fire escapes, the bar where much of the action happens, and the other locations. As a New Yorker, I recognized those apartment buildings – at intermission I told my husband the only thing missing was showing the window locks on the windows that had fire escapes.

[A Bronx Tale](#) is a fast moving, vigorous show. Much of the music is rousing, though there's no lack of ballads. The cast is largely male which undoubtedly allows for some of that musical vigor, something which might have gotten my hackles up, but this a real story, about real life and that's just how it played out.

I strongly recommend [A Bronx Tale](#). It's a fast moving dynamite show. I wasn't sure if I'd like a musical as much as I did the one man show and film. I shouldn't have had any doubts – it's a really great show and I loved it.

[A Bronx Tale](#), through Dec. 23. SHN Golden Gate Theatre 1 Taylor St. (at 6th and Market)  
Tickets: Box Office: (888) 746-1799  
<http://www.goldengatetheatresf.com/ticket-info/>  
Tues, Wed, Thurs 7:30, Fri, Sat 8:00, Wed, Sat, Sun 2.

### November Birthday

This was omitted in the November Birthday list. We apologize for the error.

Andrea Laudatte      November 26

### December Birthdays

Angie Durso      December 23

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**AAUWSF Board**

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College/University Liaison

**December 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon	12	13 Myst/Adv Bk 6:30pm	1415	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
30	31New Year's Eve					

*Joy is the holy fire that keeps our purpose warm and our intelligence aglow.*

**Helen Keller**



**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](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.