



President's Message

Internet Privacy - Changes have been made to the Avanti listings and to our branch website due to concern about possible email scams and hacking of AAUW-SF members. We now have a general contact email for our branch (aausfbranch@gmail.com) that will be monitored by me and forwarded to the appropriate member. Please be aware of any suspicious looking emails with unusual subjects and strange return addresses. If you see such an email in your account, **please do not open it or reply to it.** If you are unsure, feel free to call the purported sender to check, or you could check by sending an entirely new email to the person in question.

Elections - Both the national and state AAUW organizations have open voting periods now. The voting period for the national election is April 1 to May 14. Those of us with email were sent an email on April 1 that gives your member numbers and voter PIN number that is necessary to vote. That email stated that paper ballots had to have been requested by April 12, which has passed. I hope everyone has internet access because all of the elections materials are on the website. We are asked to vote on minor changes to the Public

Policy Priorities and on the following board of directors members: Chair, Vice Chair, and 10 directors. There is no contest for Chair and Vice Chair, and there are 11 women running for 10 director positions. The website has information on the candidates and their responses to questions posed. Admittedly, it is somewhat cumbersome to look up the candidates and their views, but it can be done. Please vote! I just did.

The state election period is April 22 to May 13. We are voting on President-Elect, Chief Financial Officer, and two directors. There is a contest for President-Elect between Dianne Owens and Lynne Batchelor. Our own Roli Wendorf is running unopposed for Chief Financial Officer, and there are 3 candidates for the 2 director positions. Those of us with email addresses on file with national AAUW will receive a personal email invitation with a link to vote. Those without email addresses will be mailed a postcard with information about how to vote. I hope you will all vote!

Dates - The Tech Trek Sendoff party will be on Saturday, May 18, from 2-4 pm at the Sports Basement. Everyone is invited, and it is great fun to meet the girls and their families. See inside for more information.

The San Francisco Branch Annual Meeting Luncheon will be on Saturday, June 8 at noon at Mescolanza Restaurant at 2nd Avenue and Geary. In addition to voting on officers, we will be honoring Andrea Laudate with the Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award and Marta Mendoza with the Outstanding Tech Trek Alumna Award. You will all receive an invitation in the mail. See inside for more information.

Barbara Spencer, President

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next board meeting is on **Wednesday, May 8, 2019**, at Sheila Bost's house, 19 Wawona, SF. Call Sheila at 415-664-4985 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, May 17, 2019 at 1:30 PM
Book/Author: The Best We Could Do, by Thi Bui
Hostess: Joanne Mandel, 12 Marne Av.
 Please **RSVP** at 415-665-7329

International Book Group

Date: Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Book/Author: The Winter Soldier by Daniel Mason
Hostess: Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona Street
 Please **RSVP** to Sheila at 415-823-0961

Mystery/Adventure Book Group

Date/Time: May 23, 2019 at 7:30 PM
Book/Author: The President is Missing, by Bill Clinton and James Patterson
Hostess: Susan Shwartz, 701 Laguna Honda Blvd.
Reviewer: Susan Peliks
RSVP: 415-661-8038

Lunch Bunch

Note that Lunch Bunch has changed to the first Wednesday of each month!

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at noon
Restaurant: Dancing Yak (Himalayan)
Address: 280 Valencia St. (near 14th)
RSVP to: Mary Suter, 415-314-6893

Tech Trek

Tech Trek Donors

Thank you for the generosity of our members for making Tech Trek possible. Special thanks go to our April donor:

Leslie Yuan

TECH TREK CAMPERS SEND-OFF!!

Date: Saturday, May 18, 2-4 pm
Place: Sport's Basement 1590 Bryant St – San Francisco – Grotto Room
Parking: under the store off Florida Street

It is time to celebrate the 2019 Campers! Fifteen girls entering 8th grade were chosen to attend Tech Trek for a week of living on a college campus at Stanford or Fresno. They represent the following SFUSD Middle Schools: Presidio, Lawton Alternative, A.P. Giannini, Herbert Hoover and Willie Brown. Please join us on May 18th to meet the girls that you are sponsoring for 2019 and congratulate them. There will be snacks and a program. See you then and many thanks for all you do for women and girls.

The Tech Trek Committee

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, June 8, 2019, 12:00 pm
Mescolanza Restaurant, 3750 Geary Blvd.**

Honoring Andrea Laudate,

Recipient of Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award
and

Marta Mendoza

Outstanding Tech Trek Alumna

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

MENU

Appetizer

Bruschetta con Pomodoro

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

Butternut Squash Ravioli with sage sauce

Dessert

Tiramisu

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 Corrine Sacks, 1835 Franklin St. #401, SF 94109. **RSVP by June 1st and email entree choice to aauwsfbranch@gmail.com** PayPal is also available.

BORN TO RIDE

Pat Camarena

The American Motorcycle Association has been around for almost one hundred years. It was founded as a whites-only organization in the early 20s. Minorities were not allowed to join for the first thirty years. Up until the 1950s it was still a "whites only" group. Women?...not so much either.

Today the AMA claims to be the largest motor sports organization in the world. It oversees many annual professional and amateur events. This organization also maintains the Motorcycle Hall of Fame near Columbus, Ohio. Its purpose is to honor riders and bike builders who have contributed to the growth of this popular sport. It also chronicles the history of riding and racing with all sorts of memorabilia from the early days and various forms of early bikes. Most of their honorees have been men, however, some women have made the "team". Bessie Springfield is one of the few. In 2002, Bessie Springfield became the first African American woman to be inducted into the AMA hall of Fame albeit posthumously.

Bessie was introduced to motorcycle riding as a teenager in North Carolina before WWI and immediately took to riding like a fish to water. Her first bike was an early Indian Scout. It is said that she especially came to love long distance riding. In 1930 she became the first African American woman to ride alone across the United States. From the 30s into the early 1940s, she made eight long-distance solo rides crossing the continent

earning traveling money by performing motorcycle stunts at carnival shows. She often had to sleep outdoors on her motorcycle seat behind gas stations along her route when no hotels would rent to an African American woman on her own.

When WWII began, Bessie entered the US Army's rigorous courier training program and began working as a civilian dispatch rider. She transported documents between domestic bases on her Harley-Davidson. She was the only woman in her unit to complete the required training. According to all reports she had many encounters with people who resented her both for being black and a woman doing a "man's job".

After the war Bessie gave up the long distance riding and settled down near Miami and reportedly became a licensed nurse. She founded the Iron Horse Motorcycle Club riding locally sometimes disguised as a man. Once while doing so, she is supposed to have won a local race but was denied the prize when she took off her helmet.

Known to be a masterful storyteller, some of Bessie's tales might seem unbelievable. However Bessie Springfield remains the unofficial "Motorcycle Queen of Miami".

www.blackpast.org

www.nytimes.com (obits)

www.jamaicans.com



Playing Now

Paula Campbell

Roald Dahl's **Charlie and The Chocolate Factory**, now playing at the Golden Gate theatre, is a delight. When I learned it was part of this season's show roster, I mentally groaned. "Who needs a dopey children's show?" Well – we all do -- because **CCF** is neither dopey nor just for children. It's clever, with great music which includes Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley songs from the movie, lots of humor, and is a treat for the eyes. The costumes are well, let's say realistic to very non-real "costumey", the sets are amazing, and filled with special effects. Of particular note are the oompa lompas, done with a kind of human puppetry, in which people and puppets merge. The puppetry Design, which won the NY Drama Desk Award, is by Basil Twist, who did the design for SF Ballet's Cinderella – you may remember the magical transformation of the coach and horses from pumpkin and mice and back again, the moving trees, and other amazing effects. Twist has garnered multiple awards and is someone whose work I follow with interest – he had a show at the small venue at Zellerbach a few years ago which allowed the audience backstage afterwards to see how some of the effects were created. Twist is a genius, and I see his work anytime I can.

Ably directed by Jack O'Brien, the ensemble CCF cast works beautifully together and there are three different child actors who alternate performances in the role of Charlie. It's an exhausting role for a child as the character is on stage almost all the time.

CCF is a lighthearted show in which evil is defeated and good is rewarded – what makes it special is how much fun it is to watch it happen! I recommend it!

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, through May 12.

SHN Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor St.

(at 6th and Market)

Tickets: Box Office: (888) 746-1799

Online: www.shnsf.com/online/

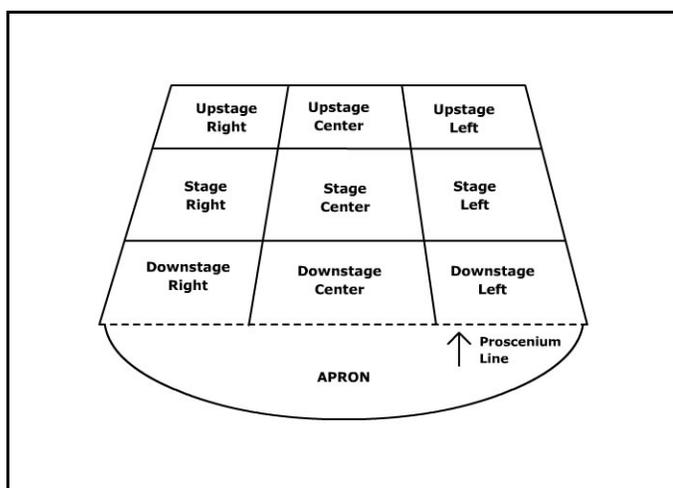
Tues-Wed-Thurs 7:30, Fri-Sat pm, Wed, Sat, Sun 2pm

And now for something completely different.

I said last month that we'd discuss the playing areas of the stage and how our language sometimes uses stage terms.

Let's start with looking at a diagram of the stage. As you can see, the stage is divided into nine playing areas, with upstage starting at the back wall, and downstage closest to the audience. The apron, if there even is one, is a removable thrust area in front of the stage which isn't often used. (I just couldn't find a stage diagram without it.) The stage areas are named from the actors' point of view. Imagine yourself standing Stage center, looking at the audience. Stage right is to your right, stage left to your left. Downstage positions are the most intimate for the actor because they are closest to the audience.

Upstage positions are the most powerful, because all the other actors need to turn their backs to the audience to talk to the person furthest upstage.



And that's how expression "upstaging", became part of our language. The prima donna would start

downstage, in conversation with another actor, then slowly but oh so surely wend her way further and further back. Eventually the second actor had to turn further and further around, away from the audience, if he wished to continue, till he was turned fully around and only his back was visible. The second actor had been successfully upstaged. Today upstaging usually means drawing attention to oneself at the expense of others, taking all the limelight (another theater expression – limelight was a means of stage illumination.) You may also heard of someone taking center stage, usually a complaint about someone hogging it. Now you know what it means literally – center stage is where our eye is always drawn first – it's the place that gets our first attention.

You can try upstaging someone. Just start talking to someone who's standing next to you, then inch back just a bit so the other person needs to also pivot a bit to continue to the conversation if they want to be able to see your face. (It's a basic instinct to look at the person we're speaking to – upstaging takes advantage of this.) Keep talking and keep moving back – the other person may get uncomfortable, but in most cases will continue pivoting. Carried to completion you can get the other person to face you full face, with his back to the audience and everything else onstage, while you are facing front, in full view of the audience.

I used to do this in my classes to illustrate upstaging. I'd ask a student to come to the front of the room and talk to me – we'd start out side by side, each of us turned a bit so we see each other. I'd slowly inch back, the student would have to turn a bit. Sooner or later his back would be to the class, and everyone got to see for themselves exactly what upstaging is and how it works.

Next month we'll discuss theatre types, the actual physical shape of things, with emphasis on proscenium theaters. Since I mentioned limelight

earlier I feel impelled to say that it was one of the most hazardous forms of stage lighting. It's highly flammable and was the cause of many disastrous stage fires.

May Event

from AAUW-Palo Alto

Erma Bombeck: By Your Side

Live Performance

by Live Story Productions

Sponsored by AAUW-Palo Alto.

Date: Saturday, May 18, 2019

two performances: 2:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Location: Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium
1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Tickets: \$20 each

Available on eventbrite:

<https://ermabombeckmay18.eventbrite.com>
or at the door

Proceeds support Fellowships of AAUW
(American Association of University Women)

Event Information

Bay Area Debut! Join AAUW-Palo Alto for a special presentation of the new living history performance of *Erma Bombeck: By Your Side* as portrayed by acclaimed living history scholar, playwright & performer Susan Marie Frontczak.

Erma Bombeck captured with great poignancy and humor the essence of the housewife's daily struggles in her column "At Wit's End" in 900

newspapers and in 13 best-selling books such as *The Grass is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank*. She let women across America know: "You are not alone. In fact, we number in the millions. I, too, am an American housewife, and I will laugh by your side."

Susan Marie Frontczak has performed one-woman living history programs in the Chautauqua tradition for 17 years. Her previous Bay Area appearances as Eleanor Roosevelt and Marie Curie won Frontczak legions of fans.

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

Contact us:

aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

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Barbara Spencer

Treasurer

Corrine Sacks

Secretary

Kelly Joseph

Nomination

Kelly Joseph

Membership VP and Webmaster

Nancy Shapiro

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Legal Advocacy VP &

Education Fund VP

Avanti Editor

Corrine Sacks

Silver Jubilee Fund Chair

Mary Suter

Voter Information

Sheila Bost

Tech Trek

Elaine Butler

College/University Liaison

Program VP

May 2019

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

There are no traffic jams along the extra mile.

Roger Staubach



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



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.