

President's Message

Annual Meeting Luncheon - It's not too late to sign up for the branch annual meeting luncheon at noon on June 8 at Mescolanza Restaurant at 2nd Avenue and Geary, **but we need a head count by June 3**. You can sign up with PayPal or email me at aauwsfbranch@gmail.com. We will be honoring Andrea Laudate with the Sarah Dix Hamlin Leadership Award and Marta Mendoza with the Tech Trek Outstanding Alumna award. We will also vote on the nominations of Rosaura Valle as secretary and Kelly Joseph and Roli Wendorf as vice presidents for program.

Election Results - The results are in for both the state and national AAUW elections. Julia Brown was elected AAUW Chair for a two-year term, and Malinda Gaul was elected vice-chair. Cheryl Sorokin from the Marin branch was elected as one of the 12 national directors. In the state elections, Dianne Owens was voted president-elect, and our branch member Roli Wendorf was elected Chief Financial Officer. Congratulations to all!

AAUW On The Move - I just returned from a tour of Ireland and was able to connect with former branch president Cathy Corcoran who now lives in Dublin. She and Noelle Hynes hosted me for a delicious Irish dinner of Guinness stew and mash. Noelle is a former board member too, as is Lisa Davis who was visiting from San Francisco. It was great to visit with all of them and to see the newly redone house.



Lisa, Noelle, Barbara, Cathy

Dates - The lunch bunch has switched its monthly date to the third Wednesday of the month. We keep trying to come up with a date that will suit the most people. See inside for more information. Please join us!

Equal Rights Advocates is having its Gala Luncheon on Friday, June 14 at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square. The featured speaker is Valerie Jarrett, former senior advisor to President Barack Obama. It promises to be an excellent event. See equalrights.org if you are interested in attending.

Enjoy the Summer Solstice!

Barbara Spencer, President

AAUWSF Board Meeting

There will be no meeting in June.

Afternoons With Books

Date: Friday, June 21, 2019 at 1:30 PM
Book/Author: Dark Money, by Jane Mayer
Hostess: Pat Spencer, 555 Ortega
 Please RSVP to Pat at 415-661-0347 or
cpbus66@gmail.com

International Book Group

Date: Monday, June 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Book/Author: Prayers for the Stolen, by Jennifer Clement
Hostess: Mary Graves, 2901 Broderick St
 Please RSVP to Mary at 415-563-3610 or
marywgraves@comcast.net

Mystery/Adventure Book Group

Date/Time: June 27, 2019 at 7:30 PM:
Book/Author: The Vanishing Season, by Joanna Schaffhausen
Hostess: Harriet Sollod, 186 Stonecrest Dr
Reviewer: Harriet
 RSVP: Harriet at 415-5856869 at 415-665-7329

Lunch Bunch

Please note : We are meeting on the third Wednesday of the month!!

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at noon
Restaurant: Lokma Restaurant
 (Fresh California and Turkish fare)
 1801 Clement St

RSVP for reservations to Mary Suter,
marsuter@yahoo.com
 Please send your cell phone number with your RSVP. We need to be able to contact you if, on the day if there are any changes.

Tech Trek

Tech Trek Send-Off May 18



Fresno Camp

Camp Marie Curie



Camp Grace Hopper

This was a wonderful day of celebration and thanks. Twelve of the fifteen girls were able to attend. The event was held once more at Sport's Basement. We were treated so well with snacks, drinks and a 20% off shopping spree. We thank them so much.

Thanks go to our Alumni, who helped: Alexis and Michelle Woo registered all attendees, Maria Tobar made a tri-fold showing this year's campers, made a presentation and took photos, Kimia Satteray read the names for the send-off gifts, Marta Mendoza talked about life after Tech Trek, Mia Aaronson led a getting to know you icebreaker for the 2019 campers Melody Yu helped with clean-up. Thank you Alums, we love seeing you again.

Many AAUW members were present and helped in so many ways. Kelly was our fantastic MC. Her

daughter, Danielle, surprised us all by arriving and representing the alums of 1999 (the second year of existence). Pat Camarena made goody bags of personal items for the campers and handed them to the girls. Connie Armitage handed out the backpacks of school supplies from Sydney Paige. Set-up and Clean-up went smoothly due to Rosaura Valle, Sheila Bost, Esther Wong, Mary Renner, Leslie Yuan, Connie Armitage, Elaine Butler, Judy Tobar and so many more. I'm sure I forgot some of you and if I did I am so sorry. It was surely an event that needed everyone's help. I thank you all so much. Now it is up to the parents to get their forms completed and their daughters to this year's camps. Watch the AVANTI for news of the Welcome Back in late August

You Are Invited to Come Visit

For your support of the Tech Trek program, we are inviting you to see our operation for yourself.

July 11 from 10:30 -1:30 pm

Camp Curie, Burbank Dormitory, Stanford University Campus

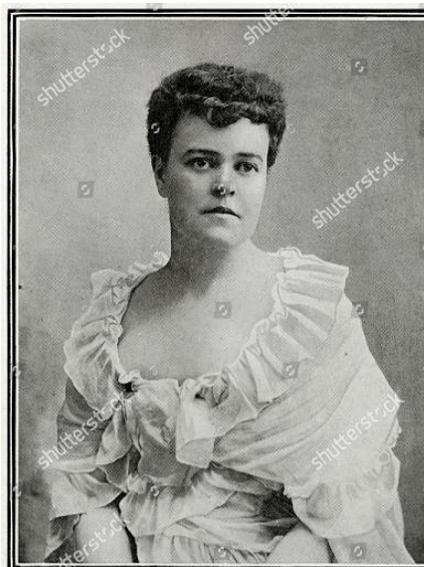
Talk with Camp staff and lunch with our Tech Trek Campers. Note: walking and stairs will be involved.

Please RSVP to cynthiamilleraauw@gmail.com for map and parking information.

Elaine Butler, Coordinator

Leslie Yuan, Communications

The Many Faceted Life of Alva Belmont Pat Camarena



THE MOTHER OF THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH
AND A FAMOUS SUFFRAGETTE LEADER



It may seem as if Alva lived several lives. Although raised in Alabama with a long southern lineage, she spent her teen years in France where her family avoided the difficult years of Reconstruction following the Civil War. After her debut onto the New York Gilded Age social scene, she married William K. a scion of the prominent but nouveau-riche Vanderbilt family. As a woman determined to enhance the family's social standing, she used her husband's fortune to gain respectability by the "old Moneyed" upper crust New Yorkers such as the Astors. This she did by overseeing the design and construction of several family mansions including a French Renaissance-style chateau as well as the first city opera house. After divorcing unfaithful William, she

stunned polite society by quickly remarrying... in a civil ceremony no less! She wed another wealthy but younger banker named Oliver Belmont. The criticisms she endured for having the temerity to leave one of America's most powerful men was most likely lead to Alva Belmont's next role change..

Following Oliver's death about ten years later, his widow surprised her world once again by transforming herself into a social activist not only for women, but especially working women. In 1901, during the violent garment industry strikes, Alva personally went to jails and bailed out striking women. She organized meetings for the striking workers to speak about their working conditions with Alva's wealthy women contacts who set fashion trends. She urged a boycott of nonunion dress manufacturers.

Using her social network and financial resources, Alva expanded her influence into the growing women's suffrage movement. She paid the rent on an entire floor of office space for the National American Women's Association. It was in Alva Belmont's Newport summer mansion that the Congressional Union conceived its strategy of holding the president's political party responsible for supporting women's right to vote. When the Women's Party evolved from that group in 1915, Belmont was elected to the executive board. Her name appeared on articles in such popular magazines of the day such as Harper's Bazaar and Good Housekeeping. Another of her strategies for gaining popular support for the movement was to open a lunchroom run by suffrage supporters offering working class women very inexpensive but good meals for as little as five cents. As word got around about the quality of the food, men came to eat as well. There all diners could find literature, texts, and banners promoting women's voting rights. After the passage of the 19th amendment, Alva became president of the National Women's Party.

Again, after her term ended, Alva Vanderbilt Belmont transformed herself once more. After taking up residence in France, she represented American women at international conferences. She also returned to her earlier love of designing, building, and renovating mansions. Her restoration of a fifteenth-century castle, along with other projects, was enough to earn her international recognition. Alva became one of the few women elected to the American Institute of Architects.

From New York debutant to high society matron to women's suffrage advocate to celebrated architect, Alva's remarkable life took many twists and turns.

On "Equal Pay Day" in 2016, Alva Belmont was honored as President Obama established the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington, D.C.

Alva quote: "Pray to God, She will help you"
This was Alva Ertskin Smith Vanderbilt Belmont (1853-1933)

www.britannica.com

www.gardenandgun.com

www.wazquotes.com

Playing Now Paula Campbell

Two interesting and very different plays to review today. I'll start with **The Good Book**, now at Berkeley Rep.

The Good Book is about just what its title implies – the bible. I asked myself how a play about the bible could possibly be interesting – where would the conflict lie, what would be the dramatic arc on which the plot would develop? In short, I told myself, it would be dry at least, boring at best. And once again, boy was I proven wrong. Playwrights Denis O'Hare and Lisa Peterson, who is also the director, trace the history and meaning of the bible through the work of two contemporary characters, an atheistic biblical scholar, played by

Annette O'Toole, and a Catholic raised gay man, played by Keith Nobbs. A beautifully orchestrated supporting cast play various scholars, biblical characters, family members and friends of the two main characters.

The conflicts are universal – what are we to believe when we know the bible has been translated, retranslated and copied over and over through the ages? What exactly can we take as the word of God? Simple changes over the centuries -- one version says “man”, another version uses “one” hold the possibility of totally different textual meanings.

If what I've said above makes you think of dull scholarship, erase that idea from your mind. **The Good Book** is funny, satiric, human, filled with love and music. It's a joyous work about families, sex, love, hate, treachery, et al. In short, it's about life – how we live it, how the bible portrays it and how in turn interpret the bible. **The Good Book** is an unusual show, on an unusual topic. It's an absolute delight and I strongly urge everyone to see it.

The Good Book, through June 9. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley
 Tickets: Box office: 510 647-2949 Online <http://www.berkeleyrep.org>
 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Wed, Sun 7pm, Sat, Sun 2pm.

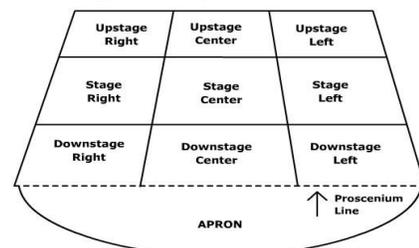
Josh Harmon's delightful, poignant rom-com, **Significant Other**, now at the SFPlayhouse, moves from laughter to tears with deceptive ease. Director Lauren English moves the audience into complicity with the characters, Jordan, (played by Kyle Cameron), Laura (Rubio Qian), Vanessa, (Kina Kantor), and Kiki, (Hayley Lovgren.) An able cast of supporting characters includes the grand dame of bay area theatre, our own Joy Carlin.) There are lots of good reasons to see this play, but just

getting an opportunity to see Carlin is reason enough.

So here's what's up. Jason, a gay man, and his three best friends, single women, vow to love each other always. One by one, the women find their significant others. Each falls in love, and marries. Jason dates in vain – he searches for love, for his significant other – and doesn't find anyone. As each of his women friends marry he becomes more and more alone. Each swears they will always love him, but what they offer is not the love he wants. One of the women gets pregnant to all around rejoicing – except for Jason who knows this will ravel whatever tenuous tie is left between the friend and him. Jason realizes he must be able to stand alone, to not rely on others to make him complete, but this is a hard lesson. Can Jason do it – the ending is ambiguous. It invites us to think about his situation, but makes it clear there are no easy answers. **Significant Other** is certainly worth seeing – I laughed a lot, but left the theatre with tears in my eyes.

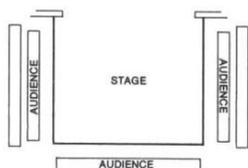
Significant Other, through June 15. SFPlayhouse 450 Post Street (2nd Floor of Kensington Park Hotel) between Mason and Powell. Tickets: Box Office 415-677-9596 Fax: 415-677-9597
 Online: <https://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/get-tickets/>
 Tues-Wed-Thurs 7pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm, (some) Suns 2pm.

And now for something completely different. Last time when we discussed prosceniums I said we'd talk about theatres this week. The stage diagram is the typical stage for a proscenium theatre.



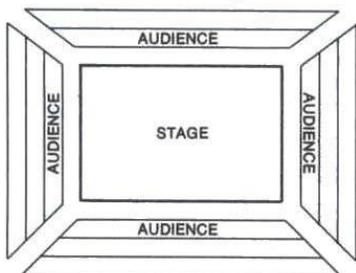
The audience is seated in rows on a raked (slanted) floor, facing the stage. The illusion is that the stage is a room (if it's an indoor scene) with a back wall and side walls, but no front wall. The invisible front wall is referred to as the fourth wall. It is up to the actor to create the sense of the fourth wall – never breaking concentration or responding to anything untoward that may happen in the audience.

Some theatres are quite different. The black box theatre is a room painted black with flexible seating and stage areas. In a typical black box theatre the stage is not raised, but on the same level as the first row of the audience. Usually in a black box the audience sits facing the stage. But sometimes the audience also sits at the sides of the stage, facing it from the side. In this case we have a thrust stage – namely the stage itself is thrust from the back wall into the audience. An example of this is San Francisco's Magic Theatre, where there are banks of seats on either side of the stage. A typical thrust stage looks like this --



The idea of seating the audience around the stage, creating an arena theatre. is popular. A typical arena theatre looks like this--

Arena Stage



It can be difficult for actors to play on a stage like this. New York's famous Circle in the Square Theatre, where many of Eugene O'Neill's plays were produced, had audience seating circled around three quarters of the stage. (The Square of the theatre name came from Sheridan Square, the neighborhood in which the theatre was located. Years later the theatre moved uptown, to a house with a more traditional stage design.

There are many possibilities for designing a stage and its audience seating. The most important things are the sight lines (can the audience see everything) and technical issues of seeing and hearing (how the stage is lit, how sound is received, both amplified and non amplified.)

One last point – the theatre is “the house.” The stage itself, all the areas of dressing rooms, shops, Green room, all the places the audience never sees are “back of the house.” The audience area, the box office, the refreshment bar, the rest rooms, the coat room, are “front of the house.” People who work in theatres typically work front of the house, or back of the house. For example, make up and costume people are back of the house, ushers who seat you are front of the house.

June Birthdays

- Anni Puckett (Stroh) June 10
- Mary Graves June 10
- Lucretia Axtell June 12
- Sarah Bolmer June 17
- Mary Suter June 21
- Sandra Tye June 28

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

Public Policy

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

June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Annual Meeting/Lunch 12 Noon
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Int'l Bk Grp 7 pm	18	19	20	21 Afternoon/ Books 1:30pm	22
23	24	25	26	27 Myst/Adv Bks: 7:30pm		

It's so simple to be wise. Just think of something stupid to say and then don't say it.

Sam Levenson, Humorist



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



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.