



**President’s Message**

**Tech Trek**

Our branch sent 16 girls to Tech Trek Camp this summer, and we heard they had a wonderful time. As usual, we will have a Welcome Back meeting for the girls and their families to hear about their experiences. This is also a branch meeting for members, and we hope to see many of you there. It’s great to hear from the girls and also to reconnect with our branch members. Details will be announced soon.

**State Committee Day**

Roli Wendorf and I attended the California State AAUW Committee Day meeting on July 20. We met with the other members of the state Finance Committee and determined that there is much to learn, especially for me with no finance background. The group as a whole was reminded to think about ideas for programs and workshops for the State Convention which will be held at the

San Francisco Airport Westin Hotel on April 16-19. We will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in the United States.

**Planning Meeting**

Our annual planning meeting is August 3, 10am, at my house. We discuss the past year’s events and ideas for programs and activities for this year. Our year is a fiscal one that goes from July 1 - June 30. Please let any board member know if you have ideas you would like considered.

**Membership**

Because we are in a new fiscal year, it is time to renew your membership if you have not done so already. We have kept our dues at \$80 despite the increased amounts that go to the state and national organizations.

**Dates**

The **AAUW Funds Luncheon** will be held at the Basque Cultural Center on October 5 and will include talks by some of the fellowship grantees.

The **California State AAUW Convention** will be held on April 16-19, 2020, at the San Francisco Airport Westin Hotel.

**Barbara Spencer, President**

**AAUWSF Board Meeting**

The Board will be meeting for the annual planning session on Saturday, August 3, 2019 at 10 am at Barbara Spencer’s house

**Afternoons With Books**

There will be **no meeting held in August**. At the next meeting, in September, we will be choosing the books to read for the year. Please come with and provide the ones you recommend for us to read. Remember, you should have read the book, feel it is something the rest of the group would enjoy. Be sure that the book is available in the library!

## International Book Group

**Date:** Monday, August 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.  
**Book/Author:** A Terrible Country, by Keith Gessen  
**Hostess:** Paula Campbell, 338 Ewing Terrace  
 Please RSVP to Paula t 415-567-1330 or  
[campbellp@usfca.edu](mailto:campbellp@usfca.edu)

## Mystery/Adventure Book Group

**Date:** August 22 at 7:30 PM  
**Location:** Sandra Tye's home, 2960 21st St  
**Book/Author:** The Perfect Couple, by Elin Hilderbrand  
**Reviewer:** Joanne Bellan  
**RSVP:** Sandra at 415-566-0587

## Lunch Bunch

**Repeat performance:**

**Wed. August 21 at noon**

**Laughing Yak, Himalayan**

280 Valencia St near 14<sup>th</sup> St.

Best to carpool

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

## Tech Trek



Tech Trek Campers from San Francisco at Camp Marie Curie at Stanford



Tech Trek Campers at Camp Grace Hopper, Stanford Campus

## Tech Trek Camp

Here is an email received from Michelle Tom, mom of Grace Hopper Camper Renee Tom.

*"Thank you. Renee said she learned more in one week than her entire academic year and had the best experience ever and made many new friends."*

*"Oh my goodness! I think this was the best summer of her life and I cannot thank you enough."*

*Comments by Michelle Tom*

**Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator**

## COURAGE OF HER CONVICTIONS

**Pat Camarena**



*Reproduced by permission of Everybody's Weekly, magazine of the Sunday Philadelphia Inquirer*

THE HONORABLE FRANCES P. BOLTON, WITH LIEUTENANT GLYDE PENNINGTON, NAVY NURSE CORPS, AND CAPTAIN EDNA GROPPE, ARMY NURSE CORPS

Frances Bolton was never at a loss for coming up with innovative ways to improve the human condition. Where she saw a problem she worked to find solutions. When the nation's lack of nurses to deal with war casualties during World War I became apparent, she helped persuade the Secretary of War to establish Army training schools. She used over a million dollars of her

inherited wealth to endow a school of nursing at Case Western Reserve University in 1929. It still bears her name today.

Some years later she filled out the Congressional term of her deceased husband.. She went on to get elected in her own right after putting together a campaign of women and won without the support of the Republican Party leadership. Frances was the first woman elected to Congress from Ohio. She continued to represent her home state in Congress for fourteen terms serving as the main proponent of both civilian and military nurses throughout World War II. Strongly interested in the tens of thousands of women in the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, she paid her own way to Europe in 1944 to check on the results of her work, visiting London hospitals during bombing raids. With cooperation from General Eisenhower, she followed the troops after D-Day and was in Paris two days after its liberation.

The courage she showed in going to war zones and her service on the Foreign Affairs Committee were the reasons President Eisenhower appointed her as a representative to the United Nations during the 1950s. Frances also made history in the post-war era when she and her son earned the distinction of being the first mother-son team in Congress. Frances Bolton got things done.

[www.womenshistory.org](http://www.womenshistory.org)

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

[www.ohiohistorycentral.org](http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org)

**Playing Now**  
**Paula Campbell**

Score another huge hit for the SFPlayhouse. **Cabaret**, directed by Susi Damilano, is a brilliant production. It's **Cabaret** the way it was meant to be performed – forget the razzle dazzle and the glitz – this is authentic pre-war Berlin – tawdry, deprived, desperate – people striving to simply earn enough money to exist, with the threat of Hitler's fascism almost tangible in the air. I saw Cabaret when it opened in New York in 1966 (and won eight Tony awards), both NY revivals (1987, 1998), three local Bay Area productions, and the film. This SFPlayhouse captures the true spirit of the times and of the show – it's the ultimate production. Based on Christopher Isherwood's **Berlin Stories**, it's the story of a young American man, a writer, traveling in Germany. He meets the chanteuse Sally Bowles who stars in the revue at the Kit Kat Klub. He becomes involved in her life and the club scene. He sees the rising tide of Nazism, the blindness to it of Sally and her friends, and leaves Germany. Music and lyrics by Kander and Ebb make the show what it is.

I can't say enough about this production. If you only see one show this year – make it **Cabaret**. The production is outstanding and differs from other productions in ways that make it important not just a show but as a documentation of an era. We see the holes in the dancers' fishnet stockings, the shabby costumes, the dirty backstage, the worn out room our hero rents. The ending of the show is the coup de grace – shocking and terrible. When the stage lights went down there was silence in the theatre – then the lights came up and the cast entered for curtain calls. For a minute or so there was still silence – then the audience rose to its feet, erupting in a roar that filled the

house. This is the definitive **Cabaret** – don't miss it!



**Cabaret**, through Sept.14. 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.

**Change of topic** – we're going to discuss stage lighting. There are two vital elements to any stage production – the actors need to be 1. seen and 2. heard. With the technology available today these may seem obvious, but through most of history that wasn't the case.

How were plays performed when there was no way to light the stage? For the most part – they weren't. They were only performed when there was natural light – the sun -- available. Shakespeare's famous Globe theatre had no roof – nor did all the other theatres of the time. The sun was the stage illumination. Night time scenes were indicated by characters carrying torches – torches hung on the walls, etc. This meant that if it was a really dark cloudy day, or if it rained, the

show couldn't be performed. FYI – the public knew if there was going to be a show each day because the theatre ran a flag from its ramparts.

For several centuries there was no way to light the stage except for the sun, and the limited use of torches. Eventually theatres were built with roofs, and other kinds of indoor illumination were used. Candles were of great importance, and then kerosene lamps found their way to the stage. The best feature of kerosene lamps was that the light could be adjusted – from dim to bright, simply by turning a lever on the lamp. But the big problem was that the lighting was specific to the area around the lamp – a whole room portrayed on stage couldn't be generally lit – only a bit of it where the lamp was. And then something wonderful happened – gas light. Gas light changed everything – the gas could be run through tubes above the stage and provide overall illumination for the whole stage. And of course the flow could be controlled so that specific parts of the stage could be fully lit, while other parts were dark. And even more important, colored clothes could be placed in front of the light source, so the light appeared colored.

The famous producer, director, actor and all around genius David Belasco produced **The Girl of the Golden West** in 1905. (The play, not the opera.) He designed a most sophisticated lighting system. The set was a room, with windows all across the back. Through these windows the audience saw the sun rise, go across the sky, and set. The play opened with a five minute sunset, during which no words were spoken – the audience was left to concentrate on and appreciate the amazing lighting effect.

As I've said before the history of acting in the theatre is driven by the desire to seem natural – realistic – and each new technology made that more possible. If improved lighting didn't help

with audio -- actors still need to be very loud, it revolutionized the physical . Once actors could easily be seen, once their movements and expressions were visible, the need for posing, for standardized position of the body and appendages was gone. Another huge step toward realism had happened.

Still, the problems of gas light are obvious – there were terrible theatre fires, with great loss of life and property. In England the authorities insisted that every theatre be equipped with “safety curtain” – a heavy asbestos curtain which totally sealed off the stage from the house. In other words, the actors could fry, but the audience would be safe. (Quite a clue to how actors were regarded and valued.\*) And in order to assure audiences of their safety an ordinance was passed that the safety curtain had to be lowered and then raised before every performance, in the presence of the audience.

Eventually electric lighting became the norm. The many uses of gas illumination were adapted to electric lighting, which eventually became extraordinarily complex. Lights were controlled from a control board, by hand. Now stage lighting is quite different. The lights themselves are laser, they are controlled by computer programs, and very little is left to chance. Though I did see a production at the Orpheum last year in which a light failed, and a person literally crawled out of the wings to fix it. He failed – the light never worked.

\* actors were seen as vagabonds, people of low morals, and often not allowed to be buried in Christian cemeteries. These ideas persisted into the early twentieth century.

## August Birthdays

Peg Jackson	August 10
Elizabeth Ray	August 15
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.

## MAKE A LIFETIME GIFT TO AAUW

Have you considered making a legacy gift to AAUW? Your gift will help ensure that the work of AAUW continues long into the future. By providing for AAUW in your estate plans, you can become part of the distinguished AAUW Legacy Circle.

The simplest form of a legacy gift is a bequest, or a gift left to a charity in your will. Bequests often can allow donors to make a sizable gift to a charity that may not have been possible during their lifetime.

You can also name AAUW as the beneficiary of your life insurance, bank account, stock account, or retirement plan. In addition to bequests in your will or living trust, charitable gift annuities are available that can provide you with tax savings and income during your lifetime.

Making a planned gift to AAUW is an easy way to make a real impact and leave an enduring legacy that will benefit AAUW long into the future. Planned gifts — or bequests — are gifts that you designate in your will, estate, or trust.

To learn more call AAUW's planned giving office at 877.357.5587. You may also request a brochure by emailing Heather Miller, AAUW's director of planned giving, at [millerh@aauw.org](mailto:millerh@aauw.org).

### Benefits of Planned Giving

- Planned gifts afford you flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW.
- Certain planned gifts may reduce estate or capital gains taxes.
- Planned gifts need not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.
- Certain types of planned gifts allow you to support AAUW while also providing income for the rest of your life — or a fixed income for a loved one.
- The joy of knowing that your legacy gift will sustain AAUW's programs for years to come is the ultimate benefit!

Join the Legacy Circle today and make a real impact in the fight for fair pay, education and training, women's leadership opportunities, and economic security. There is no minimum gift requirement to join the Legacy Circle, and it's a great way to ensure that your wishes will be honored now and in the future.

**AAUWSF Board**

Contact us:

[aauwsfbranch@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsfbranch@gmail.com)

President

Barbara Spencer

Treasurer

Corrine Sacks

Secretary

Roseaura Valle

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

Kelly Joseph

Roli Wendoff

**August 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	15 Int'l Book Group 7:pm	20	21 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon	22 Myst/Adv Bks: 7:30pm	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

*Above all, watch with glittery eyes the whole world around you, because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places*

**Roald Dahl**



**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.