



A monthly publication of AAUW, San Francisco, est. in 1886

October 2019

President's Message

Welcome Back Meeting

Once again we had a very successful meeting at the Sports Basement. Most of the girls we sent to Tech Trek attended and told us about their experiences. I wish more of our members had come to hear from the girls. We hope to stay in touch with our Tech Trek alums and to hold some events with them this year.

Marie Curie

We have been invited to an event at Laney College on Saturday, October 19 at 2:30 pm, honoring Marie Curie. The event is sponsored by the California Section of the American Chemical Society with the support of the Women Chemists Committee. There will be a dramatization of Marie Curie's life. As you probably know, in AAUW awarded Curie a grant in 1919 to obtain the research materials she needed. This promises to be a unique experience. See flyer inside for more information.

Fine Arts Museum

Melissa Buron, a former branch member and now Director of the Art Division of the San Francisco Fine Arts Museum, will be presenting a lecture at 11 am on October 12 at the Legion of Honor's Gunn Theater on the new exhibit James Tissot: Fashion & Faith, which Melissa has organized. A number of years ago, Melissa gave a talk for us at the Museum. I hope you will consider attending this talk.

Calendar:

October 5 - AAUW Funds Luncheon at Basque Cultural Center

October 19 - Marie Curie event

October 22 - Election issues meeting

Barbara Spencer, President

AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on **October 9 at 7PM**, at Corrine's House, 1835 Franklin St. #401 (between Sacramento and Clay). Check with the guard to see if there is parking available.

Potluck dinner starts at 6:30.

Please RSVP to Barbara

Afternoons With Books

Date: Friday, October 18 at 1:30 pm

Book/Author: The Warmth of Other Suns, by Isabel Wilkerson

Hostess: Mattie Alperon, 312 Willard North, off Fulton

Please RSVP to Mattie at 415-386-3217 or alpey@hotmail.com

Mattie is new to our group. She is looking forward to hosting us and to show her home with her wonderful art and collectibles.

International Book Group

Date: Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: The Collector's Apprentice, by B.A. Shapiro

Hostess: Paula Campbell, 338 Ewing Terrace

Please RSVP to Paula at 415-567-1330 or campbellp@usfca.edu

Mystery/Adventure Book Group

Date: October 24 at 7:30PM

Book/Author: The Bookshop of Yesterday's, by Amy Meyerson

Location: Pat Camerena, 157 Amber Dr.

R.S.V.P.: Pat at 415-285-7589

Lunch Bunch

Third Wednesday:

October 16 at noon

Where: La Vie

Vietnamese cuisine

5830 Geary Blvd (near 23 Avenue)

RSVP to marsuter@yahoo.com

Ballot Issues Night With Joel Engardio

Date: Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Sheila Bost, 19 Wawona Street

Please RSVP to Sheila t 415-823-0961 or

wawonast@earthlink.net

Tech Trek

Tech Trek 2019 is officially finished with the distribution of Certificates of Completion. Each camp was represented. We heard camper's stories from Camp Fresno, Camp Grace Hopper and Camp Marie Curie. AAUW members and families were impressed by the observations of the girls. Our wonderful committee member and MC, Kelly Joseph, asked the girls questions about their camp experiences, so we had some good stories. I want to thank our Tech Trek Committee and Sport's Basement for welcoming our tech trekkers back to AAUW events.

These are some pictures of the event, and the girls who attended.



Kelly Joseph, MC



There is more coming. November will be the beginning of the Tech Trek Program for 2020. Thank you to everyone who helped provide such a happy celebration.

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator

A LIVING PRESENTATION OF MARIE CURIE,

By Susan Marie Frontczak

Sponsored by The American Chemical Society with support from Women's Chemical Committee and in partnership with AAUW.

This is a living history presentation of one of our most famous chemists, Marie Curie in grand style. Starting with childhood memories that include Marie's dawning interest in science and her determination to conquer obstacles to obtaining an education in politically oppressed Poland, then tracing her migration to the Sorbonne, her unconventional romance with Pierre Curie, the birth of their first daughter, and the basis of Marie's scientific investigations that led to the discovery of two new elements (polonium and radium), an understanding of radioactivity, and the use of radium therapy against cancer.

Saturday, October 19, 2019, 2:30 PM

Laney College

Odell Johnson Performing Arts Theater

900 Fallon Street

Oakland, CA 94607

About Susan Marie Frontczak

In dramatizing the life of Marie Curie, Susan Marie pays homage to their shared Polish heritage, interest in science. Marie inspired Susan Marie to earn an Engineering degree from Swarthmore College and a Masters in Software Engineering from the Wang Institute of Graduate Studies. She worked for fourteen years at Hewlett-Packard Company before pursuing full time writing and performing. It is her aim to reveal the human behind the scientist, while placing Marie Curie's life and accomplishments in a memorable historical context.

About your Role

As attendees, you will be invited to participate in a networking event immediately following the

performance. Students have a chance to win a prizes, so don't miss out!

Reservation and Payment Required

By one of the following options:

1. Brown paper tickets: go to www.calacs.org and click Many
2. Email office@calacs.org
3. Phone 510-351-9922

For either option #2 or #3, send a check for the desired number of tickets (indicating student or regular) made payable to: CA Section, ACS, 2950 Merced St., #225, San Leandro, CA 94577, postmarked no later than October 4, 2019. Individuals needing special assistance (ADA), allergies, etc. should notify CA Section ACS.

Cost

\$15 (\$8 for students and the unemployed)

Pat Camarena

A LASTING MONUMENT





The building of the iconic **Brooklyn Bridge**, connecting Brooklyn to Manhattan across the East River in the late 1800s, was considered a brilliant engineering accomplishment at the time. Today it is still an important well-used span but also a well-known tourist attraction. Emily Warren Roebling was a major force in its completion back in the day when women were not expected to comprehend engineering skills nor put them to practical use. The bridge construction began in 1869, soon after Emily married Washington Roebling, son of the chief engineer, John Roebling. John was a German immigrant known for constructing other acclaimed spans using the latest technical advances. John died shortly after from tetanus contracted after suffering a crushed tooth. Washington Roebling, also trained as a civil engineer, and continued the often hazardous work. Explosives were used inside of pneumatic tube-like caissons deep under water at high pressure. Many workers were injured or died from the effects of decompression sickness which was little understood at the time. It was called "the bends" or "caisson disease". Washington, who worked side-by-side with his workers deep down in these caissons became permanently disabled from this serious condition. Emily was the only person allowed to

visit him. At first she began by relaying information to his assistants and reported the progress on the bridge back to her husband. Through Washington's teachings before and during his illness, Emily developed an in-depth understanding of the theoretical and practical principles of bridge building using the new steel wire cables.. She became the day-by-day supervisor and project manager. Due to her persuasive speeches, the local politicians allowed Washington to retain his title as chief engineer. In 1883, before the bridge officially opened, Emily, accompanied by President Chester Arthur, was the first person to cross the new Brooklyn Bridge. She rode in a carriage carrying a rooster as a sign of victory.

After the completion of the Brooklyn Bridge, Emily continued to be active in many civic as well as women's social causes. She traveled widely, had an audience with Queen Victoria, and was present at the coronation of the Russian Tsar. She also managed to squeeze in studying for her law certificate from New York University. She authored a highly praised and widely read essay titled "A Wife's Disability" promoting women's rights and spotlighting the discriminatory practices imposed upon women.

www.roebblingmuseum.org .

www.britannica.com

www.racingnelliebly.com

To this day the Brooklyn Bridge honors Emily, John, and Washington Roebling with a plaque.

Playing Now Paula Campbell

Today we're going to look at some theatre trivia – theatre superstitions, and commonly used words or phrases that have their basis in theatre.

Three most common theatre superstitions – don't ask me the origins – those are lost in the mists of time.

1. Never say the name of Shakespeare's play Macbeth in the theatre. Always call it "The Scottish Play."
2. Never put a hat on a bed at rehearsal or onstage.
3. Never whistle in the theatre.

Moving on, we've already examined upstaging, so let's look at a few other terms.

Let's look at:

Limelight / spotlight

Gaslighting

Oedipus Complex

Staged

Waiting in the wings

The house (full, brought down, not a dry eye, etc.)

How often have we heard about someone who always wants to "be in the "limelight" – or who "steals the limelight" from someone else? Why limelight, (as opposed to bright light, sunlight, etc.)? Sometimes "spotlight" is substituted for "limelight" in this usage. It comes from the days when limelight was a form of stage illumination. It used quicklime as the base and flame applied to it to produce a very bright light. It was a dangerous fire hazard and soon fell out of favor when gaslight was introduced. With both methods, the light could be controlled and made into a beam which could be focused on the actor. Whoever was in

the limelight, or the spotlight drew the audience's attention. As theatre lighting became more sophisticated the "follow spot" was developed. This was a way of moving the light beam to follow the actor as s/he moved around the stage.

Another phrase "gaslighting" means trying to drive someone crazy. I've often heard one person say to another "Are you gaslighting me?" That comes from the popular film, Gaslight. The evil husband, Charles Boyer, wants to drive his rich wife (Ingrid Bergman) crazy, so he can marry the sexy housemaid (Angela Lansbury.) He does this by creeping into the attic and turning the gaslight levels up or down, or making them flicker. The wife sees the lights go dim or brighter or flicker, but is told by the husband and maid that they see nothing. It is suggested by them to the wife that she is hallucinating and is clearly losing her mind. (FYI -- clever detective figures out what's happening – hubby and maid off to jail, wife keeps her sanity.) It's an interesting example of how the noun gaslight has turned in common usage into the verb gaslighting. The film Gaslight was a remake of an earlier flop, but its star cast made it a huge success.

Let's go far afield and examine the Oedipus Complex. Freud coined the term Oedipus Complex to describe a condition in which a man hates his father and is sexually attracted to his mother. What does this have to do with theatre – in a word –everything! Go back in your mind to 400 BC. Greek theatre was in its heyday! Sophocles was a popular playwright. His play Oedipus Rex, based on the myth of Oedipus, is still frequently performed. Variations on the story are many, such as Luis Alfaro's Oedipus el Rey, which was performed last season at SF's Magic theatre. So what does this have to do with the Oedipus complex? Again – everything!

It's a long story -- I'll try to keep this short. There's a terrible drought in Thebes and nothing will grow. A seer is sent to the oracle at Delphi who returns with the news that they are cursed. This is because a prophesy many years before, when they were expecting the birth of their first child, was that the baby will grow up to kill the King, his father, and marry the Queen, his mother. The Gods say the baby must die. Unable to bring themselves to kill their newborn, they have him abandoned in the mountains to die of exposure or animals seeking prey. But the baby is rescued, and brought to the king of the city adjacent to Thebes. The baby wears royal swaddling clothes and the King decides to keep him and raise him as his own.

Cut ahead – Oedipus now a royal prince, proud and arrogant, is riding in his chariot when another chariot appears coming from the opposite direction. The road is narrow – one chariot must step aside to let the other pass. Oedipus, the younger man, should be the one to step aside but his pride makes him refuse. In the fray which follows, the driver of the other chariot is slain by Oedipus. Turns out the driver is the King of Thebes. Theban culture demands that a man strong enough to slay the King becomes the next King. So Oedipus becomes king of Thebes, which also means he marries the sitting Queen. The oracle is sent for again. The answer is clear – Oedipus IS the baby they thought dead. The old prophesy has come true. Oedipus has killed his father and married his mother.

So – Freud used the old story to name his theory the Oedipus complex. The phrase is in common usage not just in English, but in most world languages.

On a light note, let me point out the Oedipus Rex contains the world's first documented case of road rage.



Closing the Pay Gap with AAUW

At the current rate, the gender pay gap will not close until 2106. In 2018, AAUW announced its bold pledge to train 10 million women in salary negotiation by 2022. AAUW is working to empower women nation-wide with skills to effectively negotiate their salary and benefits and become agents of change in their communities. Please be part of this worthy nation-wide effort and become an advocate for equal pay. Attend the one-hour online workshop at salary.aauw.org to experience it yourself, and pass the word along to family and friends.

October Birthdays

Carol Robinson	October 1
Cathy Corcoran	October 3
Harriet Sollod	October 10
Michelle Mammini	October 13
Esther Wong	October 23
Patricia Spencer	October 27
Leslie Yuan	October 27

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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October 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 Afternoon/ Books 1:30 pm	19
20	21 International Books 7pm	22 Election Issues w/ Joel Engardio 7 pm	23	24 Myst/Adv Bks: 7:30 pm	23	24
25	26	27	28	25	30	

Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if only one remembers to turn on the light.

J. K. Rowling



Avanti Editor

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 San Francisco Branch
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 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.