



## President's Message

### Tech Trek

It seems like we just had the Welcome Back meeting with this summer's Tech Trek girls, and we are already back at work planning for next summer's camps. Organizational meetings begin this month.

As has been mentioned before, we need to make our Tech Trek donation checks payable to AAUWCA-SPF so that they are tax deductible. SPF stands for Special Funds Project, which is a 501(c)(3) entity that holds the funds until the camps need them. The SPF chair has asked us to let donors know that if they plan to use IRA required minimum distribution funds, they should try to have the check submitted by Dec. 1 to ensure processing by the end of December. I take care of forwarding Tech Trek donation checks to the proper camp treasurers and to SPF, so please

submit any donations to me. We are so fortunate to have so many generous donors. We hope to send 15 girls to camp next summer.

### Tech Trek Alumnae Events

We have talked for years about doing something with our Tech Trek alumni, and we finally have members willing to spearhead these efforts. Mary Renner is organizing a trip to the California Academy of Science on November 9 for up to 16 girls. They will get free admission, see the planetarium show, and tour the facilities as they wish.

Rosaura Valle is organizing a Career Panel for alums on January 25. It promises to be a very interesting event and will be held at the Junior League of San Francisco building.

### Junior League Collaboration

At the Welcome Back event one of the Tech Trek mothers mentioned to Rosaura Valle that the Junior League of San Francisco might be able to help us with meeting space. We toured the facilities with their operations manager and found the facilities to be wonderful. I hope this will be the start of a fruitful collaboration. Their goals and ours seem to mesh nicely.

### Work Smart

Kim Churches, CEO of national AAUW, announced that we met the challenge of training 100,000

people by mid-August to secure more funding of the program from Coca Cola. A big initiative has been launched in New York City, and further efforts are ongoing here. Our branch donated \$5,000 toward funding Work Smart training programs in the San Francisco area.

### Board Meetings

We are changing the meeting time from 6:30 to 7 pm and would be delighted to have more people attend. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month and always have good food and company. Join us!

### Dates

Our annual holiday luncheon will be on Saturday, **December 14 at noon.**

**Barbara Spencer, President**

### AAUWSF Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on **November 13 at 7:30 PM**, 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 7:00. Please RSVP to Barbara

### Afternoons With Books

**Date: Friday, November 15 at 1:30 pm**  
**Book/Author:** Last Boat Out Of Shanghai, by Helen Zia  
**Hostess:** Therese Terry, 850 Powell St. #901  
 Please RSVP to Therese at 415-800-7081 or [terese.terry@yahoo.com](mailto:terese.terry@yahoo.com)

### International Book Group

**Date: Monday, November 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Book/Author:** There There, by Tommy Orange  
**Hostess:** Nancy Shapiro, 1683 42 Avenue  
 Please RSVP to Nancy at 415-731-2654 or [nancy.shapiro@sonic.net](mailto:nancy.shapiro@sonic.net)

### Mystery/Adventure Book Group

**Date: November 21 at 7:30PM**  
**Book/Author:** The Cold, Cold Ground, by Adrian McKinty  
**Location:** Elaine Butler, 124 Amber Dr.  
**R.S.V.P.:** Elaine at 415-305-2220 or [elainebutler124@comcast.net](mailto:elainebutler124@comcast.net)  
**Reviewer:** Susanne Maruoka

### Lunch Bunch

**Third Wednesday:**  
**November 20 at noon**  
**Where: Radhaus**  
 German food at Fort Mason  
 2 Marina Blvd.  
 Near the Fort Mason Entrance on the left side.  
**RSVP to** [marsuter@yahoo.com](mailto:marsuter@yahoo.com)

### Tech Trek

Mary Renner has arranged a visit to the planetarium at the Academy of Sciences on November 9<sup>th</sup>. We have invited Tech Trekkers who have attended over the last three years, along with some alums, as helpers.

You will read more about this event in the December AVANTI. We are hoping to do more of these events for our Tech Trekkers.

November will also find some of us attending the two Branch Coordinator meetings in November. It is a chance to meet the other Branch Coordinators, exchange strategies and learn any changes in the rules at the state AAUW level.

**Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator**

## AAUW and the November Elections

As the 2020 presidential campaign gets underway, the power of women is on full display.

Maybe it's that there are so many women in the race — the largest number in history — or because the candidates are eager to earn our support. **Whatever the reason, the issues that matter most to us are *finally* getting attention.** As a non-partisan organization, AAUW doesn't endorse specific candidates. But that doesn't mean we're not advocates for the policies that matter most to us. Indeed, we have a long history of championing policies that advance equality for women in education and the workplace.

So, in the months ahead, AAUW will be watching closely to see where candidates stand on these five issues:

1. **Equal Pay for Equal Work.** To close the stubborn wage gap, we need leaders who will pass the federal [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) and advocate for laws and policies that ensure women are not discriminated against at work.
2. **Investing in Education.** Education is the pathway for women and girls, but too many of our schools are falling short. We need to raise teacher pay, invest in [STEM education](#), protect [Title IX](#) and make education a top national priority.
3. **Reducing Student Debt.** Women hold two-thirds of the nation's \$1.46 trillion [educational debt](#). Policymakers should protect grant programs, champion tuition- and debt-free options and expand loan forgiveness programs.
4. **Strengthening Social Security.** Because of lower wages and time off from work, women collect about \$320 a month less than men do in Social Security benefits. Our lawmakers need to [address the retirement wage gap](#) women face.
5. **Implementing Paid Leave.** The U.S. is the only developed country without paid family and sick leave. Let's [adopt policies](#) to give workers paid time off for illness and caregiving.

You know how much is at stake in the next election. So, please, do what you've done in the past: Tune in, get involved, make your voices heard — and ensure that we harness the power of women to drive the national agenda.

**Kimberly Churches**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Pat Camarena**

## **JACKIE AND THE BABE**

Jackie Mitchell's father loved taking his young daughter to baseball games in their hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The city boasted a fancy new stadium for the minor league Chattanooga Lookouts.

One of their neighbors was Dazzy Vance, a former major league player and scout. He noticed Jackie's early interest in learning how to pitch, and started to work with her. Dazzy enjoyed teaching teen age Jackie who was left handed as was he. As time went on the seventeen year old developed a unique throwing style. The operator of the new stadium, Joe Engel, was also a former major league lefty. Joe had heard of Jackie's prowess. He often came up with promotions to attract ticket buying fans

By late March of 1931, spring training was winding down. The New York Yankees were on their way home from Florida. Since they knew Joe Engel, the team got off the train in Chattanooga to play a few exhibition games against the Lookouts. Joe saw a great promotional opportunity in their visit. He could bring in local girl as a novelty item and have her pitch against the visiting Yankees Tickets quickly sold out. Jackie was put under contract. All the seats were filled.

The first day was a rain out. On the second day there was a sold out crowd. The Yankees were up 1-0 when Jackie took the mound. Her first opponent was none other than Babe Ruth! He swung and missed on the first two pitches. On her third pitch to him Babe struck out. Next up was none other than Lou Gehrig. He went down after three straight pitches. Babe was furious saying that he thought that women were too "delicate" to play the game.

This game was Jackie's brief moment to be in the spotlight. Later on, the baseball commissioner

directed Joe to tear up her contract with the Lookouts. By 1952 MLB had barred all women from the game.

Speculation went on for a long time concerning whether Babe and Lou really wanted to hit one of Jackie's pitches or was that day just part of a publicity stunt .

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

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



## Playing Now Paula Campbell

It would be generous to call Dance Nation, now showing at SFPlayhouse, a mixed bag. Instead I'll just say Skip It! Ambitious in scope, Dance Nation covers the lives of a dance team of pubescent girls. The girls are fiercely competitive and determined to win the contest they're preparing for. Playwright Clare Barron attempts to bare the pubescent psyche, but most of what's bared are the girls' bodies and that of the one male dancer in the group. Why one male dancer in a girls dance team – good question, but don't look for an answer because there isn't one. Like much in the play, it just doesn't make sense. Barron is an award winning playwright, in fact Dance was nominated for a Pulitzer, but didn't win. It's hard to understand the nomination – the play is weak; none of the girls' stories engage the audience, and though we're supposed to be looking at the girls' hearts and souls that just doesn't happen. I can't say whether it's the play itself, or just this production, but it just doesn't work. Director Becca Wolfe has her work cut out for her with this script, but doesn't quite make it.

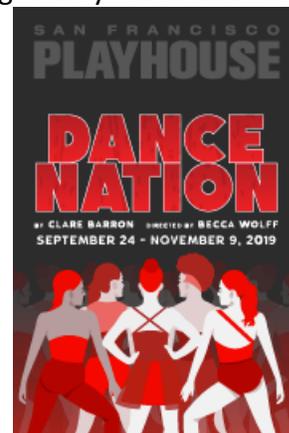
Blood figures large in the play. When one of the dancers gets her period for what is apparently the first time, it's a huge deal. With plenty of blood – blood on her clothes, blood on her hands, blood on her legs -- lots of it! But menarche at age 13 isn't realistic in this day and age – it's far more likely to occur as early as age 10, or certainly age 11. But blood is important in this play – other characters suddenly have bloody mouths, bloody lips, one girl bites her arms until they bleed. Why – what's it all about – another unanswered question.

The playwright specifies that the actors should not be pubescent girls, but girls and women of a variety of ages. This works sometimes, is awkward at others. When the girls strip in the locker room,

and one has the body of 50+ year old woman, yet acts and speaks like a preteen, it feels contrived and uncomfortable.

There are some serious problems with the production. One is the very large set pieces which are physically pushed on and off the stage. But they don't move easily – the people pushing them seem to be having a hard time. This isn't part of a stage effect – the pieces just don't move well and the pushers are straining to move them. Another is keeping track of who is who. In the first scene, a dancer is injured, and lays on the floor, bloody, calling for help. One, then another of the girls enters, sees her, and each backs off as fast as she can. Again why? Word is sent that the injured girl will no longer be part of the team. OK – but the actor comes back. She plays the various mothers of various of the girls. She is not dressed differently and has the same hair style. It makes no sense – she was a preteen – now she's a mother – but she looks the same. Why? The girls are a dance team and one turns out to be a winner -- but they aren't good dancers – they'd never win anything. Again, is that the playwright's choice, or a directorial decision?

I had high hopes for Dance Nation. I expected angst, innovation, and empathy. Instead the barely an hour production provided none of that, and ended with 5+ minutes of the cast chanting, and screaming "Pussy" over and over. Really?





**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](http://salary.aauw.org) to experience it yourself, and pass the word along to family and friends.



**November Birthdays**

Sandra Martino	November 5
Alicia Hetman	November 7
Sherry Bridygham	November 8
Anna Yang	November 19
Roli Wendorf	November 19
Katherine Cha	November 22
Andrea Laudate	November 26
Kelly Joseph	November 29
Beth Wells	November 30

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

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Tech Trek

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College/University Liaison

Program VP

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**November 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 <b>ELECTION DAY-- VOTE!!!</b>	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Afternoon/ Books 1:30 pm	16
17	18 Afternoon/ Books 7:00 pm	19	20 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon	21 Myst/Adv Bks: 7:30 pm	2	23
24	25	26	27	28 <b>THANKSGIVING</b>	29	30

*Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.*

**Arthur Ashe**



**Avanti Editor**

AAUW  
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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](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.