



### President's Message

#### Tech Trek

We have attended the camp organizational meetings and hope to send as many girls to camp as last year. The two Stanford camps do not yet know how many dorm spaces they will have. Later on, we will list some opportunities for volunteer help at the camps.

Another reminder about donations: Please make donation checks payable to **AAUWCA-SPF** so that they are tax deductible and submit them to me. I will then submit the checks to the appropriate camp treasurer who in turn submits them the SPF (Special Projects Fund).

#### Holiday Luncheon

You should all have received an invitation in the mail. The luncheon is on **Saturday, December 14,**

noon, at Mescolanza Restaurant, 3750 Geary at 2nd Avenue. The food is always delicious and the company grand. I hope you can all come!

#### Interbranch Council (IBC)

I attended the IBC meeting on November 16 at Half Moon Bay. Cathy Foxhoven, Co-President of AAUW California, discussed plans for the State Convention at the Westin San Francisco Airport. Our IBC will join the San Mateo branch in presenting a talk by Sonia Koesterer about adding art to STEM education: STEAM. Sonia is Roli Wendorf's daughter! It should be a lively presentation on January 11, 12-2 pm, at the Burlingame Parks and Recreation building. Further details will be forthcoming. Let's have a big turnout!

#### Upcoming Dates

December 14 - Holiday Luncheon  
January 11 - Interbranch Council program  
January 25 - Tech Trek Alumnae Career Panel  
March - Tech Trek Interviews  
April 17-19 - AAUW California State Convention  
May - Tech Trek Send-Off Party  
June 13 - AAUW San Francisco Branch Annual Luncheon Meeting

#### Barbara Spencer, President

### AAUWSF Board Meeting

We will have our next meeting at the Members Luncheon on December 14.

### Afternoons With Books

**There will be no meeting in December. Happy Holidays to all.**

### International Book Group

**There will be no meeting in December.**

The next meeting will be January 20.

### Mystery/Adventure Book Group

**Holiday Party, Mystery Potluck**

**Date:** December 19; third Thursday

**Time:** 6:30 new time

**Book/Author:** The Sentence is Death by Anthony Horowitz

**Location:** JoAnne Bellan, 2466 23rd Ave SF

**Reviewer:** Elaine Butler

**RSVP:** Joanne 415-664-2366

### Lunch Bunch

**There is no lunch bunch group lunch planned for December!**

### Tech Trek

December is the month we contact the 7th grade math or science teachers. All schools are encouraged to nominate up to 5 girls. If you know any San Francisco 7th grade math or science teachers, please let them know about the Tech Trek program. Have them contact me.

Elaine Butler, [elainebutler124@comcast.net](mailto:elainebutler124@comcast.net)

10 Tech Trekkers and 5 AAUW member chaperones visited the California Academy of Sciences November 9. Some visited the rainforest while others visited the special exhibit Skins. Other exhibits included the Africa Hall, Earthquake experience, SF fog experience. Then we all gathered at the planetarium for the Passport to the Stars show, the highlight of the day.

Most stayed for lunch together and then departed, with fond memories of the experience and of reuniting with fellow Trekkers.

**Mary Renner**



**Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator**

## AAUW HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



**Saturday, December 14, 2019, 12:00 noon**

*Mescolanza Restaurant, 3750 Geary Blvd.*

### *MENU*

#### *APPETIZER*

*BRUSCHETTA CON POMODORO* grilled slices of bread, marinated tomatoes

#### *INSALATE*

*INSALATA MISTA* butter lettuce, roma tomatoes, house dressing  
OR

*INSALATA DI CESARE* classic romaine salad, house made croutons

#### *ENTREES*

Your choice of:

*BUTTERNUT SQUASH RAVIOLI* with brown butter and Sage sauce  
OR

*VEAL AL MARSALA:* pounded veal, shallots, mushrooms, Marsala wine, accompanied by seasonal vegetables

OR

*GRILLED SALMON:* accompanied by seasonal vegetables

#### *DOLCE*

*TIRAMISU* or

*CIOCCOLATA CON AMARETTI:* chocolate flan with amaretto and crushed amaretti cookies

#### *BEVANDE*

*Coffee, Tea, or Soda*

Cost is \$35. Please make check payable to AAUW-SF, put entree choice on check, and mail to Barbara Spencer, 736 3rd Ave., SF 94118 .

**RSVP by December 6, and email entree choice to [barbaracspencer@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracspencer@gmail.com)**

PayPal is also available.

## **FRIENDS LUNCHEON and AAUW Work Smart**



Roli Wendorf represented our branch at the annual CEDAW Women's Human Rights Awards Luncheon hosted by FRIENDS of the Commission on the Status of Women, San Francisco. The CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) event was held on November 1 at the Marriott Marquis. FRIENDS is offering AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation workshops in San Francisco in collaboration with AAUW national with a goal of training 20,000 women. Roli will be co-facilitating two of these workshops, on December 10 and January 9.

At the Awards Luncheon, Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor of California, was the keynote speaker and one of 11 award recipients. Another eminent award recipient was Dolores Huerta, civil rights activist and community organizer, awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Obama in 2012. It was an inspiring event. It was also good to see AAUW's Work Smart program being promoted by other organizations such as FRIENDS and Morgan Stanley.



**Pat Camarena**

**UNDAUNTED**

**"Be of good cheer, for sadness can;not  
heal the national wounds."**

Dorothea Dix was middle-aged before she began the innovative work with the mentally ill for which she is famous. First she had another life as a teacher and writer. However, in 1841, a visit to a Cambridge jail to teach a Sunday school class was to change her life's direction.

Dorothea found that, among the women inmates were many guilty of no greater crime than mental illness. The day was cold, their rooms unheated, and the ill-fed women were kept confined in filthy conditions by a jailer who judged them to be incapable of feeling. Outraged, Dix took up their welfare as her cause, bombarding the local authorities with letters that she also released to the newspapers. A public outcry resulted in somewhat improved facilities. However, Dix began to be regarded as a busybody by some critics of her unorthodox tactics.

Undaunted, she adopted the same scientific methodology as she had for her earlier botanical studies. She read everything available on the subject of mental illness. Then, for the next few years, she traveled alone by train throughout Massachusetts, documenting conditions similar to those she had observed in Cambridge. When she had gathered enough evidence, she presented her findings in writing to the state legislature. Up to this time no one was doing much in the way of research related to social conditions. Women rarely traveled alone on trains, let alone got up to speak publicly to assembled legislators. As a result of her efforts hospital beds and other improvements began to be implemented. Dorothea used these same investigative methods to reveal the dismal conditions of the indigent mentally ill in nearby states. Newspapers continued to report on her findings. She received a great deal of mail from people interested in her cause. She was instrumental in the founding of the Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane. Many facilities for the mentally ill began to be established thanks to her work. At this time the field of study of psychiatry was just about unknown.

Dix began to spend part of each year in Washington lobbying Congress but with only limited success. She also traveled to Europe to study conditions in mental hospitals. When she returned, the mind of America had changed. The Civil War was not far off. Progress on humanitarian issues other than abolition was difficult. Dorothea served as Superintendent of the United States Army Nurses. Though American women had worked as war nurses in the past, hers was the first formal command position. This period of her life had many challenges as she had little experience directing others. Never the less she stayed on throughout the entire war with no compensation.

Back in her day, terms like sociologist and psychologist were just barely coming into use.

Dorothea had been both without the titles. She had been a political activist too, long before women could vote.

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

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

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

### Playing Now Paula Campbell

Jane Anderson's **Mother of the Maid**, now at Marin Theatre Company is a must-see! Everything is superb --- writing, acting, sets, costumes. It's the story of Joan of Arc, told from her mother's point of view.

We all know the story. France, at war with England, is losing badly. Along comes an untutored, illiterate, country girl who claims St. Catherine talks to her and tells her she can, she must, raise troops to lead in battle, because she, Joan, can save France. Somehow Joan persuades the generals, the Dauphin, the church leaders that she is genuine and truly led by St. Catherine. To her family's horror, she is allowed to lead troops, wins a few battles, then is captured, tried by the English and burned at the stake. We all know the basic story, and many have seen George Bernard Shaw's version, **Saint Joan**.

**Mother of the Maid** is quite a different kettle of fish. It opens with Joan and her mother cleaning recently sheared sheep wool, pulling out burrs and excrement stuck in the wool; everyday women's work. But what the mother is saying suggest

things are not quite right. “Joanie”, she says, “sweetie, you just have to, you must, wear a skirt -- you can’t put on men’s pants and go out dressed like that.” That sets the tone of the play. The Arc family -- mother, father, brother, Joan are like any family – they are the people next door. With one major difference -- their daughter claims to have talks with St. Catherine and knows, knows beyond a doubt, knows with all her being, that she is chosen to lead the army and save France. That’s impossible for the family to believe. Her father locks her up in a room; literally chains her so she can’t get away. Her mother is frantic – but as the brother tells them, Joan has already reached out to the priest, who believes her and has contacted higher ups. Somehow, unbelievably, Joan is to go to the palace, meet the Dauphin, and fulfill the promise of St. Catherine. When she and her troops are eventually defeated in battle, she’s captured, tried and executed by auto-da-fé – burning at the stake.

The story is heartbreaking, as the end is inevitable. The French refuse to rescue Joan or pay the required ransom, so she’s doomed. But how did it all start in the first place? The play strongly suggests that the people of France are tired of war, and unwilling to provide any more support – neither men nor money. Then along comes Joan – she’s like a god sent recruiting tool – people love her. She’s an innocent, someone who’s not part of the establishment, and since she’s blessed by St. Catherine she may actually lead them to victory. She’s useful as long as she wins – once she loses she’s lost her value.

I hope I haven’t said too much – suffice to say I LOVED this play. I can’t recommend it highly enough. It’s real, the people are real, the language is real, Joan’s faith is real. The play is filled with the humor of everyday life, up till the tragedy of the end. The run has already been extended as

word of mouth keeps the theatre full for every performance. DON’T MISS IT!!!

**Mother of the Maid,**

Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, through Dec. 15.

Tickets: Box Office 415-388-5209 Online:

<https://tickets.marintheatre.org>

Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Wed 7:30pm, Sun 7pm, Wed, Sun 2pm.



**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.

**December Birthdays**

Angie Durso December 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](mailto:aauwsfbranch@gmail.com)

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Program VP

Kelly Joseph

Roli Wendoff

**December 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Annual Holiday Luncheon 12 Noon
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

*The problem with waiting until tomorrow is that when it finally arrives, it is called today.*

**Jim Rohn**



**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.