



## President's Message

Hello All! Our strange times continue. It seems that we now live in the world of Zoom. Our branch has a Zoom membership that may be used for book groups and other gatherings. Just contact me for the sign-in information.

### *June 13 Annual Meeting*

In lieu of our Annual Meeting Luncheon, we will have a Zoom annual meeting at **noon on Saturday, June 13**. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on officers for the new fiscal year and to greet each other. All members will receive an email invitation to the Zoom meeting with the login link around June 9 or 10. You need to click on the link at noon on June 13, and you will be admitted to the meeting. I hope we have a good turnout. The slate of officers is inside this Avanti and was in the May Avanti as well.

### *Finance Workshop*

Roli Wendorf, who is CFO of AAUW-CA, and I participated in a Zoom workshop for branch finance officers. The workshop had been intended for the State Convention, which had to be cancelled. Amazingly, 174 people registered for the Zoom workshop and 146 participated that day. And almost all of the participants stayed until the end!

### *Work Smart*

The success of the Zoom Finance Workshop has caused us to think about how we can promote the online Work Smart salary negotiation course while most everyone is sheltering in place. The program is free and could be helpful to countless job seekers. The link to the program is [www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary](http://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary). Please contact me or any board member if you have an idea about this.

## In Memoriam

Our friend and branch member Terese Terry died on May 8. Terry Terry, as she was known to us, was a lively and intelligent presence at many of our groups and events. Her favored means of transportation was by motor scooter, which left me awestruck! Terry had been a librarian for 20 years at the Lippincott Library of the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania before moving to San Francisco in 2011. We were so lucky to have her as a branch member. There was a very touching live-streamed funeral mass at St. Ignatius Church that had earmarks of Terry, who had selected the music. We will miss Terry very much. Our condolences go out to her husband John and family.

**Don't forget the June 13 annual meeting.**

Let's stay in touch and be well!

**Barbara Spencer, President**

### **Afternoons With Books**

**When: Friday, June 19 at 2:00 pm**

**Where:** On Zoom

**Book:** Bel Canto, by Ann Patchett

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### **International Book Group**

**When: Monday June 15 at 7:00 pm**

**Where:** On Zoom

**Book:** Born A Crime, by Trevor Noah

### **Mystery/Adventure**

**Date: June 25, 2020, 7:30**

**Book & Author: Wildfire, by Ann Cleese**

**Hostess:** On Zoom

**Reviewer:** Mary Suter

### **Lunch Bunch**

**When: Wednesday, June 17, at noon**

**Where:** On Zoom. Bring your own lunch

### **Tech Trek**

There are many ways to support Tech Trek in these trying times. We received this request for help from National.



Serving on an [AAUW committee](#) is a wonderful way to give back to the organization and shape the future for women and girls. I hope you'll consider applying for the next two-year term, which starts on July 1. **The application will be open until 6:00 pm ET on Friday, May 8.**

There are many benefits of participating, including:

- Developing leadership skills you can use in your branch or work with other nonprofits.
- Meeting great people dedicated to gender equity and expanding your network.
- Influencing the strategy and priorities of the AAUW national office.
- Expanding your knowledge and skills.

We'd love to have you join us. As always, thank you for your support and commitment to AAUW.

**If you are interested, please contact national. You can apply on line at [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org)**

Each Donor to the Tech Trek Program will be receiving a personalized letter from AAUW with their thanks. This is a copy of the letter which each donor will receive, and will be the official acknowledgement, and also serve as a receipt for tax purposes.

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Branch Coordinator – (Branch Name)  
(Address)  
(City, State, Zip)



(Date)

\*\*\*\*\*

(Name)  
(Organization)  
(Address)  
(City, State, Zip)

**Elaine Butler**, Tech Trek SF Coordinator, and the  
Tech Trek Committee.

Dear :

Thank you for your continued support of the Tech Trek program of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). As you know, AAUW California Tech Trek Science and Math Camp for Girls strives to develop interest and excitement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields and self-confidence in young women by providing the experience of living one week on a college campus and participating in hands-on activities in math, science and related fields.

The safety and wellbeing of our campers, staff and volunteers is always our top priority. Sadly, and for the first time in our history, in accordance with government mandates and working with the campus hosts, on April 6, 2020, AAUW California announced the cancellation of the statewide 2020 Tech Trek camp season.

As a 2020 Tech Trek donor, please be advised that your tax-free donation to the 501(c)(3) program has been identified and isolated. These funds will be expended once we can resume the camps in the future. We fully expect to deliver a robust and rewarding experience for future campers in the summer of 2021.

Again, we thank you for your support of the AAUW California Tech Trek program. We look forward to many years of sharing our commitment to developing STEM interest and excitement in young women.

Sincerely,

(Name)

**Silver Jubilee**

**EXTENSION OF SILVER JUBILEE APPLICATION**

Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund has extended its application due date to July 1, 2020.

Students in their last year of college or last year of graduate school may apply for the two thousand dollar scholarship.

The information to apply is found on the website [www.aauwsf.org](http://www.aauwsf.org). We ask all AAUW members to look around for friends or relatives who are eligible.

**Mary Suter, Chair**

**AAUW SF  
Slate of Officers 2020-2021**

- Co-President: Barbara Spencer
- Co-President: Kelly Joseph
- Membership: Mary Renner
- Secretary: Rosaura Valle
- Treasurer: Corinne Sacks
- Website: Nora Lee
- Avanti: Corinne Sacks
- Tech Trek: Elaine Butler
- Silver Jubilee: Mary Suter

Voter Information: Sheila Bost  
Program VP: Needed

Please attend our **virtual annual meeting at noon on June 13 to vote**. Details about this process will be sent to you before then.

## Pat Camarena



## THE QUEEN OF SONG

Helen Michell was a young Aussie girl raised in a musical family in the late 1800s. This is the story of her rise to international fame as a coloratura soprano and why we still remember her today.

Helen (or Nellie) grew up near Melbourne. Her father, an emigre from Scotland, loved to sing and encouraged her musical interests. Following the early death of her mother and the end of an unhappy marriage, she began studying and performing locally with the goal of making singing her career. After moving to Paris, a well known retired operatic soprano took her on as a student.

Soon Nellie was being offered singing engagements in big European cities such as London and Brussels. She gradually collected many appreciative opera fans. During a performance at London's Covent Garden in the 1890s, Georges Auguste Escoffier, the well-known

French chef, was in the audience. He was head chef in the Savoy Hotel restaurant where Nellie was a guest. Impressed by her vocal skills, Escoffier decided to create a special dessert in her honor featuring her favorite fruit. Since more women had begun to dine out in the '90s, it had become fashionable for menu items to be named after popular women singers. Escoffier topped a poached peach with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, some raspberry puree, and sliced toasted almonds. This dessert came to be known as "Peach Melba". Helen Mitchell had begun to use "Nellie Melba" as her professional name in honor of her hometown of Melbourne. Nellie often breakfasted in the Savoy dining room. Always weight conscious, she ordered only tea and bread. Escoffier would grill and then slice the bread, then toast it one more time. This thin toasted bread entry is still referred to as "Melba Toast" in Nellie's honor.

For many years Nellie continued to sing operatic roles in Europe. She returned often to perform in Australia and New Zealand as well. She earned the nick-name "Queen of Song" for her expansive almost 3 octave range. She was greeted by large crowds and treated like a superstar of the day. She was one of the first operatic sopranos to have her voice recorded. Fans could now buy her recordings for their gramophones. During WWI she gave concerts to raise funds to for the Australian war effort. In 1918, Nellie was awarded the title of Dame of the British Empire which is still given to reward outstanding individuals in the arts and sciences. In addition to her war efforts, she was given this honor in appreciation of her contributions to establish and fund several music schools thus encouraging young students to aspire to musical careers as she herself had done.

Since 1996 the Australian 100 dollar banknotes have featured Nellie's face together with a scene from one of her operatic performances. The new Next Generation \$100 banknote is scheduled to go into circulation later in 2020. It will include updated security features and will be made from

polymer (plastic). However, it will still bear Nellie's likeness and the monogram from the cover of her homecoming concert tour of 1902.

[www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au)  
[www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)  
[www.skwirk.com.au](http://www.skwirk.com.au)

### Playing Now Paula Campbell

I recently watched an amazing production of **The King and I**. It had top Broadway performers, spectacular sets and costumes, and most important, had been filmed perfectly – it was like watching a live performance. FYI – it was filmed before a live audience at the London Palladium. I could have watched it on my computer, but chose to see it big screen on my TV. It was like having a really great seat in the theatre, with the added advantage that I could stop the show at any time, for essential trips to the kitchen or bathroom. What was the cost of a ticket to this show – nothing. I watched it on Lincoln Center on Demand:

<http://lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home/on-demand>

When I arrived at the site I went to the archive:

<https://www.lct.org/shows/shows-archive/> to choose what to see.

I suggest exploring this wonderful site carefully – besides shows there are backstage interviews and other videos of interest.

Be prepared to spend time exploring the site. There's a lot to see. BTW, they also offer tickets

for sale for live performances at Lincoln Center, when these resume. Make sure you don't accidentally wind up buying tickets for shows in NYC.

I mentioned last time that many SF theatres productions are available online. Most are available only to subscribers – others may have a charge per ticket. If you subscribe to any local theatres you should check their websites frequently to see what they are offering.

Goldstar sometimes has discount tickets for streamed SF shows. It never hurts to look there. <https://www.goldstar.com/san-francisco>

There IS theatre available to see – SF theatres are adapting to Covid quite successfully. Don't worry if your jones is up\* for theatre -- it's out there.

\* "(my) jones is up" means I'm really wanting something – looking forward to it, maybe yearning for it.



### 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.

**Mental Health Association of San Francisco** has a 24 hour peer-run line for nonemergency emotional support.  
**855-845-7415**

**Reach out if you need support.**

### June Birthdays

Annie Puckett	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.

### Sheltering in Place

It has been a long 2 ½ months, and perhaps more to come. We are all having issues around the isolation.

If you feel lonely and need to talk to someone, there are two places that will help.

**The Institute on Aging** offers a 24 hour friendship line for people 60 years and older, adults with disabilities and those who feeling isolated.

**800-971-0016**

**AAUWSF Board**

Contact us:

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

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Barbara Spencer

Treasurer

Corrine Sacks

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Roseaura Valle

Nomination

Kelly Joseph

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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

**June 2020**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Intern'l Book 7PM	16	17 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon	18	19 Afternoon/ Books 2:00PM	20
21	22	23	24	25 Mystery/Adv 7:30PM	26	27
28	29	30				

*Tough times never last, but tough people do*

**Robert H. Schuller**





**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.