



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

July 2020

President's Message

With July we begin a new year for AAUW, and we have some new officers. I am extremely happy to welcome Kelly Joseph as co-president. For this issue you will hear from both of us; after that we will alternate with the President's Message.

Over the past few weeks we have been confronted with anger and anguish over the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and many other people of color who have been unjustly killed. One of the pillars of the AAUW vision is advocacy "to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society." The issues before us are not new, but the impact has been heightened immensely by the advent of cell phone videos.

In attempting to gain deeper understanding, I have been gathering a reading list and video suggestions. PBS presented a program Race Matters: American in Crisis, which aired on June 6, 2020, but may still be watched by streaming. It is a very intelligent discussion. My reading list is as follows:

White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century by William A. Darity and A. Kirsten Mullen

I've not yet read all of these books, but I plan to. I hope others will join me.

Our board will have a planning meeting on Saturday, August 1 to review the past year's

programs and events and to plan for this year. Please contact any member of the board if you have ideas for activities or events.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

It is with pleasure that I take on the role of Co-President with Barbara Spencer. I've been a member since 2009 and have enjoyed getting to know strong and powerful women in AAUW, some who are no longer with us. My daughter attended Tech Trek in 2009 and I enjoy serving on that committee.

2020 is not the year I thought it would be. It's been a year of extreme joy and extreme pain. I now find myself in the role of explaining why "black lives matter".

If you are white, do you hesitate to call the police when needed or are scared to pull over if stopped by an officer? I do. If you are white have you gotten into an elevator of only black people and thought that was strange? Have you ever had "the talk" with children in your family? I'm not talking about sex, but the talk you have with children you care about to help them not get put in jail or murdered for the color of their skin.

I would love to say "can't we all just get along". That no longer works. Social media has shed the light on the daily lives of black people in America. The killings aren't new and they continue each and every day. Awareness by the world is new.

Educating ourselves and making changes will help us change this course of history.

Here are suggested books to spark conversations:

- ◆ I'm Not Dying With You Tonight by Gilly Segal (for teens and adults)
- ◆ How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

TedTalk:

- ◆ The Neuroscience of Decision-Making: Are We Foul or Fair? | Kimberly Papillon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCWYkZ5i-gE>

Looking forward to conversations on how we, as a branch can grow and perpetuate the AAUW values: Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.

In health & wellness,

Kelly

In Memoriam

We have lost another valued branch member. Margel Kaufman died on June 3, 2020. She served as branch president from 1982-1984 when the AAUW national convention was held in San Francisco. Margel ran for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Education and received active support from our branch members. She lost by a very narrow margin but remembered the support provided by the branch. At a time when many members had young children, Margel organized the husbands to babysit during meetings. Margel was active in theater groups and as a realtor. She was a dynamo who will be missed.



Participants: IBC Meeting

Afternoons With Books

When: Friday, July 17 at 2:00 pm

Where: On Zoom

Book: Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens
If you would like to participate contact Michelle

International Book Group

When: Monday July 20, at 7:00 pm

Where: On Zoom

Book: The Widows of Malabar Hill, by Sujata Massey
Contact Barbara if you would like to join the discussion

Mystery/Adventure

We discussed the possibility of meeting in person in July since Governor Newsom was lifting restrictions earlier in the week. The group was polled and decided to do our July meeting on ZOOM. It was a good choice since Mayor Breed cancelled any removing of restrictions.

Date: July 23, 2020, at 7:30 pm

Book & Author: The Seagull, by Ann Cleeves

Location: On Zoom

Reviewer: Joanne Bellan

RSVP: Elaine

New members are welcomed at any meeting.

Lunch Bunch

When: Wednesday, July 17, at noon

Where: On Zoom. Bring your lunch to sit and chat.

RSVP:

Inventory of Mobility Aids

Recent injuries to branch members caused us to think that it would be useful to establish an inventory of mobility aids available for branch members to borrow. The idea is to develop a list of items with contact information so that those in need could seek an equipment loan.

Referral List

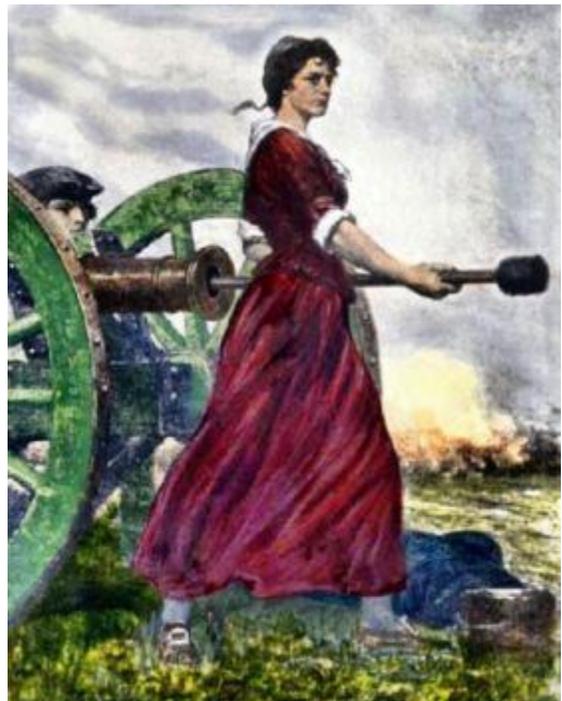
While we are at it, what not develop a referral list as well? The idea is to list persons or companies you have found to be reliable, such as caregivers, plumbers, electricians. An established list would be so much easier than asking around in times of need.

Point Person

Marlene Forde has offered to compile these lists and to answer inquiries when information is needed.

Please email her with your list of mobility aids and referrals.

Pat Camarena



Back (almost) from Obscurity

Most likely there was a very famous woman named Margaret Cochran Corbin buried somewhere in the West Point Military Academy Cemetery up on the highlands overlooking the Hudson River in 1800. It was not until 1817 that

the area officially designated as a burial ground for Revolutionary soldiers. Earlier burials were not all recorded. The exact location of her unmarked grave was forgotten over the years. In the early part of the last century, an overgrown unmarked grave was discovered on the perimeter of the cemetery. After an extensive search through records of early area settlers and local folklore, it was determined that this grave was probably Margaret's final resting place. In 1926, the DAR verified the records of her military service during the Revolutionary War. She was finally recognized for her heroism. She was reinterred in a more prominent location. A monument was erected. A formal ceremony was held including full military honors for this first woman to fight as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. But there is more to the story of Margaret Corbin.

Margaret been brought up by relatives after she lost both her parents as a result of an Indian raid when she was only five. In 1772 at the age of nineteen she married John Corbin, a Virginia farmer. Four years later when the Revolutionary War began, John joined the Continental Army. They both went east to join the fight. Margaret was one of many women who were camp followers on the battlefield near Manhattan's Fort Washington. Wives of the soldiers often cooked for the men, washed their laundry, and nursed the wounded. They most likely observed the men doing their drills and learned to fire the weapons themselves.

On November 16, 1776, 4,000 British soldiers and Hessian mercenaries attacked the outnumbered riflemen. Everyone was needed to counter the enemy attack. Margaret had been assisting John who was an artillery gunner. Early in the four hour siege, John was shot and killed instantly. Margaret had no time to mourn. She continued loading and firing the cannon herself taking plenty of return fire due to her good aim and accuracy. Before the final surrender, grapeshot tore through her shoulder almost

severing her left arm, mangling her chest, and lacerating her jaw.

After the surrender, she was paroled by the British. She endured a jolting wagon ride to an army hospital in Philadelphia. For the rest of her life, Margaret was never able to lift her left arm. The state of Pennsylvania gave her \$30 due to her disabled condition and in recognition of her bravery. Three years later the Continental Congress granted her a lifetime disability payment of one-half pay making her the first woman to receive a military pension. Until the war ended Margaret continued to be included on the regimental muster lists as a disabled soldier.

Settling to the West Point area, Margaret eventually remarried a veteran, but both of them lived the rest of their lives on the edge of poverty. She died before she was fifty and was then buried in the informal area for war soldiers later to become part of the official military cemetery.

The DAR honors Margaret annually by presenting the Army Nurse Award in her name.

However, recent forensic tests of the remains thought to be Margaret's have been identified as those of an unidentified male. As other unmarked graves come to light, the DAR will continue to research as to the actual location of Margaret's remains. The mystery continues.

www.womenshistory.org

www.dar.org

www.nwhm.org

Playing Now Paula Campbell

Today I'm going to talk about a South African playwright and recommend that you see any and every production of a play of his that you see an ad for.

The playwright is Athol Fugard. He is a White South African who began writing and producing his plays in the late 1950's. The plays are almost all about black people in South Africa. In order to get government permission to work with black actors Fugard classified them as servants. When he achieved international note and was invited to bring his work to other countries, he was able to get his acting company out of South Africa by categorizing them as "household servants" on passports.

I saw my first Athol Fugard play in NY the 60's. Blood Knot is a two character play – the two men are brothers, one is white, one is black. (They had different fathers.) Their relationship is torturous – they are each others best friends and worst enemies. When I saw it the men were played by James Earl Jones, then an almost unknown actor, and Patrick O'Neill, just off the Broadway run of Tennessee Williams' Night of the Iguana. Blood Knot stayed with me for a long time. It raised thoughts and emotions I wasn't quite sure how to deal with. What I was sure of is that I wanted to see more of Fugard's work.

The next NY Fugard production I saw using his South African company actors was two one act plays; Sizwe Bansi is Dead, and The Island. I have never experienced in theatre the kind of punch I got from Sizwe Bansi – it hit me emotionally, intellectually, and so hard that it was almost

physical. Then came A Lesson From Aloes, then James Earl Jones and Ruby Dee in Boesman and Lena. In 1982 Master Harold and the Boys opened on Broadway. It went on to productions all over this country, and to many international productions.

Athol Fugard is a brilliant theater artist. He is exceptional. At the age of 88 he is still writing and being produced.

The plays I've mentioned here are all available in print to read. I know some people can read plays as if they were stories, (I'm in this category), others find it difficult to deal with keeping track of characters and dialogue. If you are someone who can enjoy reading plays I suggest you check out the plays I mention. It will be time well spent, in the company of one of the most brilliant playwrights of the 20th, 21st century.

Note – James Earl Jones is a household name today. That wasn't always the case. He had a serious speech impediment that held him back. BUT he was the son of Robert Earl Jones, who was one of the most famous black actors of the early 20th century. That helped his son James a lot at the start, then he blossomed into the brilliant actor he is today. His unique voice didn't hurt either.

July Birthdays

Sheila Bost July 14
 Elaine Butler July 19

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 3 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

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.

San Francisco: Keeping Safe



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Contact us:

aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

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July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon	16	17 Afternoon/ Books 2:00PM	18
19	20 Intern'l Book 7PM	21	22	23 Mystery/Adv 7:30PM	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself

Andy Warhol



Avanti Editor

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 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.