



President’s Message

Holidays

The Covid-19 pandemic has wrought many changes, including how we celebrate holidays. I hope everyone was able to celebrate Thanksgiving in a festive but safe manner.

We will still have a holiday luncheon, but it will be virtual. Please see the announcement on the following pages. Briefly, it will be on **Saturday, December 12, at 12:30 pm on Zoom**. Feel free to contact any board member if you need help with Zoom.

Work Smart

As you probably know, our branch funded AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation workshops and webinars in conjunction with the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women. We received a very nice thank you note from Verna Liza Caba, Executive Director of Friends of the Commission: “From all of us at the FRIENDS of the Commission on the Status of Women, we give thanks to you for your support and friendship. Because of your generosity, we hosted six workshops through our Equal Pay Initiative that trained women on developing effective strategies for negotiating salary and benefits packages. We are helping close the gender wage gap, and we’ll conclude the series of webinars on **December 1st and December 8th.**”

The December 1 webinar is from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, and the December 8 webinar is from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm. All are welcome to join the webinars

at no cost. Please spread the word! One need only register for the event at www.friendscosw.org.

Best Wishes

This has been a difficult year, and we have all had to learn to be flexible. Our holiday celebrations will be different, but I hope they will still be joyous. My best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

I am grateful for my family and friends maintaining their health and being safe and for their love. I am grateful for you for believing and helping to achieve our mission.

In the month of November, we had a thoughtful conversation in our “One Book, One Branch” discussion of parts 1 and 2 of the book, Caste by Isabel Wilkerson. We shared our varied opinions and life experiences. The purpose is to learn from each other and to educate ourselves. We’re never too old to learn something new!

We set dates for the upcoming discussions and invite you to join us. It’s not too late! Parts 3, 4 and 5 will be discussed in January 27 at 7:30 p.m. The final parts will be discussed on February 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Please send me suggestions for our next book about diversity, inclusion and equity.

Wishing you a happy holiday!



Kelly Joseph, Co-President

One Branch, One Book

Our branch has selected the book **Caste** by Isabel Wilkerson as our first “One Branch, One Book” for this year. Our next discussion on parts three, four, and five, will be held via Zoom on January 27, at 7:30 p.m. Please share any questions or comments you’d like to have included in the discussion by emailing me at We look forward to learning and growing together.

Kelly Joseph, Co-President

Board Meeting

There is no scheduled board meeting for December. We will deal with any board matters during our holiday get together.

Afternoons With Books

When: Friday, December 18, at 2:00 pm

Where: On Zoom

Book/Author: American Dirt, by Jeannie Cummins

Presenter and Hostess: Connie Armitage

Please contact Michelle at
if you would like to attend

International Book Group

There will be no meeting in December

The next meeting will be on January 20, 2021

We will be reading *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabelle Wilkerson.

More details will follow in the January Avanti.

Mystery/Adventure

We will be meeting by Zoom instead of our usual Christmas Party.

Date: December 17, at 7:30 pm

Where: On Zoom

Book and Author: The Flight Attendant, by Chris Bohjalian

Reviewer: Elaine Butler

If you want to join us.

Lunch Bunch

When: Wednesday, December 16, at noon

Where: On Zoom. Bring your lunch, since we can't eat out.

RSVP:

Who: All SF AAUW members and friends. A great way to both eat, and chat with others during these days of sheltering at home.

If you would like join us please contact Mary at

AAUW-SF VIRTUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Please join us for a Zoom Holiday Luncheon on **Saturday, December 12 , at 12:30 pm**. Let's dress up in our holiday finery and wear our holiday earrings. There will be a prize for the most festive earrings (since that is the main thing we will see). We miss getting together and would like to touch base with everyone. No need to worry about

whether you like the menu since you will be picking it! Everyone will be emailed a Zoom invitation on December 11. Feel free to contact any board member if you need help using Zoom.

Tech Trek

Tech Trek will have a virtual week this year. The chosen girls will enroll in classes online and participate virtually. This was done by another branch when the camps were closed last summer. The board and members of the Tech Trek Committee will discuss the options given and how we will participate on Wednesday December 2.

Work Smart and State Webinars in December

Work Smart and Webinars in December

The AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation workshops sponsored by our branch and organized by the FRIENDS of the Commission on the Status of Women, San Francisco, continue. Two workshops will be held this month on December 1 and December 8. Registration links and information about them can be found [here](#). Please spread the word!

Register for some excellent webinars. There are two sessions of a Virtual Tech Trek informational webinar to help branches understand what to expect for the Summer 2021 Tech Trek program. If you're part of the Tech Trek team, you won't want to miss these:

- December 3, 2020 Session: 3:30- 5 pm.
Click [HERE](#) to register.
- December 7, 2020 Session: 7- 8:30 pm.
Click [HERE](#) to register

There is also a worthwhile year-end webinar from national AAUW, the “AAUW Season of Gratitude” event with Kim Churches and national board members to give thanks and cover highlights of what to expect in the coming year. It will be held on December 8 at 1:00 PM PT (4:00 PM ET). You can register [here](#).

Roli Wendorf



With Sympathy

Elaine Butler lost her mother and her friend to Covid 19 this week. Elaine’s mother would have been 96 on December 2. They both lived in the Midwest. We send best wishes to Elaine at this time of sadness.

Inventory of Mobility Aids

We are looking for additional resources such as handy persons, electricians, light moving help, as well as names of care givers. We all are in need of a variety of assistance these days, and often don’t know who to go to for information.

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

INTREPID

Daughter of a suffragette, Martha Gellhorn was to become an indefatigable 20th century journalist and author. During the Depression she began to work for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Traveling in the South she was dismayed by the poverty and sickness she witnessed. Her reports back to FERA were passed on to be read in the White House. Eleanor Roosevelt was so impressed that she actually invited Martha to live in the White House for a while and act as an advisor. The two women were to become lifelong friends. In the later 1930s Martha began to travel to war torn countries. She managed to find her way to Spain during the Civil War in spite of her publisher’s concern for her safety. Prior to the WWII 1944 Allied D-Day invasion, she finagled a passage aboard a French bound ship arriving in Normandy the day after the troops landed. She arrived at the Dachau concentration camp on the day WWII ended in Europe. During her more than 60 year long career, Martha became even more well known for her correspondence during the Vietnam War, the Arab-Israeli, and Central American conflicts. Her last assignment was in Panama in 1989 when she

was 81! This intrepid lady set the bar very high for journalistic truth telling and honesty for the next generation of journalists following in her footsteps. She would very likely be quite concerned about the current state of affairs regarding "fake news" and the mixed blessing of social media's role as a news source in our society

Not only was Martha a world famous war correspondent but she also produced successful short stories and novels based on the people she encountered during her extensive travels.

Nicole Kidman played the role of Martha in an HBO movie about the five years that she was the third wife of writer Ernest Hemingway. The story of their somewhat acrimonious relationship and her travels with him as in her own words her often "unwilling companion" I will leave to you for further reading. For more information about her life, please visit the suggested websites listed below.

www.newyorker.com

www.nytimes.com

www.theguardian.com

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

It's hard to find things to review with all theatres closed during the pandemic. Many theatres are offering free online performances to subscribers. Sadly there's not a lot of freebies available. I was able to find a few. Here's some good ones I've found.

https://www.lct.org/shows/spotlight/?utm_source=delivra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Spotlight%20Series%20-%20Lileana%20BC%20convo%201%20invite%20to%20public&utm_id=40500789&utm_term=Learn+More+-+LCT+Spotlight+Series

This website offers specific shows at Lincoln Center, but also contains links to lots of other free works at Lincoln Center Online. It includes discussions, interviews and full length shows.

<https://www.insider.com/best-broadway-shows-you-can-stream-for-free-online-coronavirus-2020-3>

Above site offers some specific shows, with the lure of a lot more if you subscribe, but you can see the free ones sans subscription.

<https://www.pbs.org/show/great-performances/> PBS has *Great Performances*. Sometimes the program is theatre discussions and interviews, sometimes an entire show. On my system I get it on channels 9, 22, 32, 43, and 54. So if you miss it when it's first aired, you can be sure it will be repeated elsewhere. I recently saw a marvelous program on *Fiddler on the Roof*. While it did not include the whole show in performance, there were many excerpts and also much wonderful discussion. Did you know that since *Fiddler* opened on Broadway in 1964 there has been a performance of it somewhere in the world every single day – not one day gone by when it wasn't being performed. When it opened in Japan, many critics thought it was especially aimed at Japanese audiences, because of its emphasis on father-daughter relationships. Did you know that at Lin-Manuel Miranda's wedding, much to his surprise his guests wound up doing the wedding dance from *Fiddler*. One of my friends from college played Chava in the original *Fiddler* production, so I have a special interest in it.

<https://www.pbs.org/live-from-lincoln-center/home/>

Don't miss checking out what's on at *Live from Lincoln Center*. There's a huge variety of material, and it changes frequently so there's always something new to watch.

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.

Sheltering in Place

It has been harder for us this month, with the fires causing poor air quality, limiting our time outdoors. However, we now have more dining options, small group meetings, and in person religious services opening up. Keep up what you are doing, and remember to try some new things. There is a lot of new and exciting activities being broadcast. And new things are being added daily.

Remember

It helps to talk to someone. You might need someone other than friends or family.

Here 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.

And you are invited to join any of our ZOOM groups.



AAUWSF Board

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aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

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Roli Wendoff

December 2020

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

Sometimes we miss out on the bursts of joy because we're too busy chasing down extraordinary moments.

Brene Brown



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



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.