

## President's Message

**Hello All,**

Given that the average age of AAUW members is 72, I trust that most of you have had your Covid vaccinations. Let's all stay well and hope that we can venture out a bit in the near future.

### Zoom Branch Meeting on Proposed Membership Changes

Our board has voted to support the proposed bylaws change to remove the degree requirement for membership and to welcome anyone who supports our mission. We have planned a zoom meeting open to all branch members, as well as members of our interbranch council, to discuss this important issue. Please join us. Zoom invitations will be emailed to all.



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Cherie Sorokin, a member of the National AAUW Board and of the Marin AAUW branch, agreed to join our discussion to explain issues and to answer questions. We are

very lucky to have her. In addition to being a longtime member of AAUW, Cherie is an attorney who has written a book on corporate governance for nonprofits and continues to work as a consultant on governance. Much of Cherie's career was spent at Bank of America where among

other roles she served as the first woman Corporate Secretary.

Cherie is very knowledgeable about the issues facing AAUW's struggle to remain a viable organization advancing equity for all women and girls. The national board strongly supports this bylaws change, as do the state and our branch boards. **Please join us for this meeting on March 17 at 7pm.** We will send out email reminders beforehand.

### AAUW Art Contest

AAUW is holding an art contest to select six works submitted by members to be featured on a set of notecards. Our past president Andrea Laudate has entered two pieces of art entitled "Land's End Peephole" and "Mushrooms in the Mist." Voting for the selections may be done on the national website [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). The easiest way to find the art contest is to use the search function. Voting ends on March 3. Please consider voting for Andrea's entries.

### Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, and March 8 is International Women's Day. There will be many programs on KQED and elsewhere celebrating women's achievements. Be sure to tune into some of them.

Yours in our zoom world,

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

**Welcome to March!**

We have left the month of February which is designated as Black History Month and as Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors basketball team said in a commercial, every month is Black History Month. The same goes for March which is designated as Women's History Month. We make history 365 days a year.

I found an interesting website which has women's history events throughout the month. Here's the link: <https://womenshistorymonth.gov>

We've concluded our inaugural book in our "One Book, One Branch" meeting. We read "Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents", by Isabel Wilkerson. We had interesting conversations and are left pondering how we can do to changes. We've clearly had recent examples of racism being a part of our American culture. If nothing else, we've made people aware and analyzed our own actions and beliefs.

The discussion group wishes to continue in our journey to read and share insights on diversity, equity and inclusion topics. We have chosen to read "Four Hundred Souls" edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. This book encompasses African American history from 1619 to 2019. We will read parts 1-3 and meet on March 24th at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom.

I will add as many posts on women making history on our Facebook page, so please take a look and comment.

Please remember to spring forward on March 14th as daylight saving time begins. Happy Saint Patrick's Day and enjoy the first day of Spring!

In health and wellness,

**Kelly Joseph, Co-President**

**Board Meeting**

The next board meeting is scheduled for **March 10, 2021 at 7 P.M. via Zoom**. All members are welcome to attend. Contact Barbara at

**Afternoons With Books**

**When: Friday, March 19, at 1:30 pm**

**Where:** On Zoom

**Book/Author: Oryx and Crake**, by Margaret Atwood

**Presenter: Paula Campbell**

To join the discussion, please contact Michelle

**International Book Group**

**Date: Monday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Book/Author: The Traitor**, by V.S. Alexander

**Hostess/Zoom Coordinator: Barbara Spencer**

Please RSVP to Barbara a

**Mystery/Adventure**

**Date: March 25, 7:30 pm**

**Book and Author: The Missing Corpse**, by Jean-Luc Bannalec

**Reviewer:** Sandra Tye

**Location:** Zoom. Call Elaine Butler for link

**Lunch Bunch**

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

**Where:** On Zoom. Bring your favorite lunch, and eat with us.

**Who:** All SF AAUW members and friends, are invited to both eat, and chat with others during these days of sheltering at home.

If you would like to join us, please contact Mary at

### One Branch, One Book

We have chosen to read **“Four Hundred Souls”** edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. This book encompasses African American history from 1619 to 2019. **We will read parts 1-3 and meet on March 24th at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom.**

Everyone is welcome to join us. Contact Kelly at to be sent the Zoom link.

### Dues Increase

Our branch dues for fiscal year 2021-2022 will increase to \$83.00 to reflect the \$3.00 increase in national dues to the amount of \$62 of which \$59 is tax deductible. Beginning March 16 you may renew your membership in the [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) Membership Services Database.

Please contact any board member if you have financial difficulties with our dues and we can arrange a subsidy.

### Tech Trek

I want to bring you up-to-date on what we're working on in the Task Force.

1. All of the Task Force members' entries into Ideaboardz were completed by 2/10.
2. Small group of us evaluated each entry and further categorized them into the following characteristics:
  - Type of Camp: Type of Camp, Other Characteristics
  - Curriculum: Content, Methodology
  - The Campers: Camper Age, Camper Profile, Selection Process
  - Administration: Organization and planning, Term Limits, Standardization, Camp Documents
  - Finance: Stipends, Donation Processing, Fundraising
  - Evaluation: Evaluation
  - Other: Marketing
3. The Task Force convened on 2/15 and went over each entry to validate if the idea was in the right category, if it was in fact an idea or was really a comment and we then marked each idea as one of the following:
  - Current Practice
  - Enhancement of Current Practice
  - New Practice
4. We were able to complete about half of the entries and will continue this effort at our next meeting on 2/22.

So what is happening with your input? Well, we are going to add your input to our spreadsheet before the 2/22 Task Force meeting. At that time we will share your input with the Task Force.

Next steps are to construct a survey including each item marked Enhancement or New. This survey will be reviewed and finalized by the Task Force at the 3/1 meeting.

If we stay on schedule, you, the Task Force and the camp staff will all be receiving the survey on 3/4 to help us identify what changes are the most important to you! I will let you know if there are

any changes to this schedule. The survey will need to be completed on or before 3/10. Thank you in advance for your participation!

I want to thank each and every one of you for your time and dedication to the Tech Trek program!

**Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator**

lives, and archives of Black women. Presented by national AAUW.

To register: [Link](#)

**Roli Wendorf**

**Pat Camarena**

### March Webinars

Check out these webinars:

#### **Living Our Mission of Equity for All: Monday, March 16, 7:00 PM**

This webinar covers a discussion of the issues around opening AAUW membership to all. Organized by Dianne Owens, President, AAUW California.

To register: [Link](#)

#### **How to Talk to Legislators: Monday, March 22, 7:00 PM**

This workshop will provide training for members who are signed up for Lobby Day on March 24th. It will also be useful to members who are not coming to Lobby Day but would like to learn more about talking with legislators in their districts about AAUW public policy priorities and AAUW-supported bills. Organized by Kathi Harper, Director of Public Policy, AAUW California.

To register: [Link](#)

#### **Half in Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay**

**Thursday March 4, 2:00 PM (PST, 5:00 PM EST)**

An insightful and informative conversation with AAUW fellowships alumna Dr. Shanna Benjamin, Ph.D., Educator and Scholar, to discuss her upcoming book, *Half in Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay*. Dr. Benjamin is a biographer and scholar who studies the literature,

### PROTECTING OUR WORKFORCE



During her long and productive life, Dr. Alice Hamilton pioneered a field of science that was still considered relatively new. Industrial toxicology—in which she began specializing at the turn of the 1900s, was considered to be quite a controversial subject.

Alice earned her degree from the University of Michigan's coeducational medical school in the late 1800s as the Industrial Age was coming into its own. While adding to her knowledge via some internships in Germany, she studied

bacteriology. Though these universities did not admit women, she was allowed to attend lectures provided that she made herself “inconspicuous”. Upon her return to the states, she did further research at Johns Hopkins. Thus well prepared, Alice was appointed as a professor at the Women’s Medical School of Northwestern University in Chicago. She chose to live at Jane Adams’ Hull House, where she not only met many of the era’s progressive thinkers, but she also saw firsthand the needs of Hull House’s clients. She soon discovered that many of the irreversible health problems of the immigrant poor were due to the noxious chemicals and unsafe conditions that they were exposed to in the course of their industrial work. Since there was no workers’ compensation or health insurance at the time, many employers considered workers to be an expendable item to be used as long as profitable and then replaced by new labor fresh from Europe. Alice began to study the problem in depth and publish reports of her findings. When the governor of Illinois appointed an Occupational Disease Commission in 1910, Alice became its director. Her investigations resulted in passage of a state workers’ compensation law. By a stroke of luck, both the U.S. Labor Commissioner and Alice attended an international health and safety meeting in Brussels. He heard Alice give a report of her findings. He asked her to replicate her research on a national level— without pay for the next ten years. During her research into existing literature from abroad, she realized that America was lagging behind in the study of industrial medicine. During WWI, one of her research projects helped in the identification of a number of substances to which both men, and increasingly women, munitions workers were being exposed. The war gave visibility to her unique status as an expert on industrial toxicology.

Dr. Hamilton became the first woman on the staff of Harvard Medical School in 1919. She believed that she was hired in this “stronghold of

masculinity” because “I was the only candidate available.” All her students were male, for the medical school did not admit women until it was forced to by the needs of WWII. She was still discriminated against being excluded from faculty social activities and the all-male graduation processions.

As the only woman to serve on the League of Nations Health Committee, she investigated industrial health conditions in several foreign countries during her six year tenure. In the 1930s, more investigative opportunities came her way at the request of the U.S. Department of Labor in the areas of the new artificial fabrics and of the silicosis that afflicted miners.

After retirement from Harvard in 1935, Alice continued to serve as a medical consultant to the U.S. Division of Labor Standards. It was not until 1970, after much legislative wrangling between many diverse interest groups, that President Nixon signed the milestone Occupational Safety and Health Act, an agency of the Department of Labor whose purpose then and now is to assure safety and health protection for all American workers. Alice passed away that same year, over one hundred years old.

In 1995 Alice’s extensive contributions to public health were celebrated by a U.S. Postal Services commemorative stamp.

### March Birthdays

Pat Camerena	March 1
Sunny Holland	March 4

Margaret Kavounas March 8  
 Mary Renner March 15  
 Paula Campbell March 16  
 Nancy Pelosi March 26

Wheel chair (new) with leg supports and removable arms Nancy —1  
 Bedside commode - New, very sturdy in steel Nancy —1  
 Bedside Commode Mary R—1  
 Crutches Mary R—1  
 Water Circulator Machine: to circulate cold water on knee, ankle, or elbow. Attaches with Velcro. Mary R—1

**Birthday Not Announced?**  
 If your birthday is not here and you'd like to have it included (or corrected), contact the Membership VP.

**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.

**Resource List**

**TRADES**

PLUMBER:  
 One Source Plumbing: 415-750-3646, recommended by Barbara Spencer (He is also highly rated on Yelp for quality and price)

**MOBILITY AIDS**

Shower Bench Barbara —1  
 Walker Barbara —1  
 Toilet Rails Barbara —1

WOMENS  
**History**  
 MONTH



WISDOM GRACE COURAGE INTELLIGENCE

ILLUMINATEDLVG.COM

**AAUWSF Board**

Contact us:

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

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Tech Trek

Elaine Butler

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Kelly Joseph

Roli Wendoff

**March 2021**

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

*You must do the thing you think you cannot do.*

**Eleanor Roosevelt**





**Avanti Editor**

AAUW  
 San Francisco Branch  
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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)



**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.