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April 2021

President's Message

Happy Spring!

Proposed Membership Change

For those of you who missed it, we had a very worthwhile zoom meeting on March 17 to discuss the proposal to change the national bylaws to remove the degree requirement for membership. There were 25 participants, including members from neighboring branches. Cherie Sorokin, a national board member and a former president of our branch, facilitated the discussion with an overview of the issues.

AAUW began in 1881 with a group of 17 women in Boston. In the years following, groups were formed in Chicago and the South. In 1921 the three groups banded together to become AAUW. At first graduates of regional colleges were not eligible for membership, but that was changed in 1963. The bylaws were changed in 1987 to allow men to join.

Throughout these changes the nature of AAUW's mission has remained the same—to promote equity for women and girls through education, research, and advocacy. If AAUW's vision is Equity for All, it makes sense to remove the degree requirement which is proving to be counterproductive to recruiting diverse members.

The degree requirement has come to be viewed as elitist and out of touch with cultural change. At the present time, even Lilly Ledbetter does not

qualify for membership. AAUW has changed with the times before, and it is time to do so now. As a practical matter, many foundations will not consider supporting us because of the degree requirement. We need outside money to support our programs. Dues are not enough.

Dropping the degree requirement will not erase what is unique about us. AAUW is unique due to our breadth of programming, research, policy and advocacy, fellowships and grants, and most importantly, a grassroots membership that can be mobilized to fight for what we believe in: full equity, including fair pay and equal opportunity in education and the workplace.

Nor will we need to change our name. We have been branded as AAUW. Our full name, American Association of University Women, has always been confusing and has not been descriptive of us for a long time. After all, we have men members, and members who have Associate degrees.

Voting on the proposed by law change begins on April 7 and ends May 17. An email link will be sent to all eligible voters beginning on April 7. Paper ballots may be requested from connect@aauw.org on or before April 16, 2021. Paper ballots must be postmarked by April 30, 2021. I hope everyone will give serious consideration to this issue. We need to change to remain viable. The average age of our members is 72.

Please refer to the National and State websites for a more detailed discussion.

Annual AAUW-CA Meeting

The annual state meeting will be held via zoom on April 17, 2021, from 9:30 to 12:30. All are invited, and it is free of charge.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Happy Spring!

We have lots to be thankful for as we look forward to reopening the World

We are very proud of our former board president, Andrea Laudate, whose entry, *Mushrooms in the Mist*, was one of the winners in AAUW's 12th annual art contest! We will all receive her winning entry as a notecard mailed to members this spring. Congratulations Andrea!



Hatred continues to headline our culture in America as hate crimes against Asian Americans are on the rise. These crimes are happening in the Bay Area.

Hollaback!, an organization against all types of harassment, is partnering with Asian Americans Advancing Justice to provide free "Bystander Intervention" training to stop all anti-

Asian/American and xenophobic harassment. See @ihollagram or ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention for more information.

April is Stress Awareness Month. It was established in 1992 because we all feel stressed at some point in our week. Here is one among many websites with tips on reducing stress:

<https://www.bioiq.com/7-tips-for-preventing-and-managing-stress>

Be safe and stay healthy!

Kelly Joseph, Co-President

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for **April 14, 2021 at 7 P.M. via Zoom**. All members are welcome to attend

Afternoons With Books

When: Friday, April 16, at 1:30 pm

Where: On Zoom

Book/Author: A Nervous Splendor, by Frederic Morton

Presenter: Anni Puckett

International Book Group

Date: Monday, April 19, at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: The Dutch House, by Ann Patchett

Hostess/Zoom Coordinator: Barbara Spencer

Mystery/Adventure

Date: April 22, 7:30 pm

Book and Author: *The Midnight Line*, by Lee Childs

Reviewer: Joanne Mandel

Location: Zoom

New members welcomed to join our discussions

Lunch Bunch

When: Wednesday, April 21, at noon

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

News: This month we will discuss going to a restaurant in May.

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

One Book, One Branch

Please join us in our conversation of the book, *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019* by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. We are slowing the pace of reading this book, so there is time for others to catch up and join us. Here's our schedule:

Wednesday, April 28, Parts 4 and 5

Wednesday, June 2, Parts 6 and 7

Wednesday, June 30, Parts 8, 9 and 10

We look forward to seeing you via Zoom. Barbara or I will email the link before the meeting dates.

Everyone is welcome to join us

Tech Trek

TTAG: Tech Trek Alumnae Group
by Rosaura Valle

The Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) from the AAUW San Francisco Branch is LIVE!

We started off this year by creating a survey to keep track of our Tech Trek Alumnae (TTA) and their interests. While the San Francisco Tech Trek (TT) program started as early as 1998, a database of TTA contacts has only been available for the past 3 years. Therefore we were only able to reach out to 50 students, comprising the 2018 and 2019 TTA cohorts and the 2020 selected TT candidates. Notwithstanding, it was exciting to witness the San Francisco Branch TTAG coming together!

The group now comprises 18 TTA: they are between the age of 13 and 17, come from 9 different schools in San Francisco, and their interests range from artificial intelligence to marine biology, and from biomedical and health sciences to robotics. The STEM topics that scored the most interest in the survey were: Climate Change and Coding & Programming, both in 1st place selected by 10 students, followed by Astronomy & Astrophysics in 2nd place (selected by 9 students). Interestingly, Forensics, Maths & Statistics and Space Sciences tied for 3rd place (selected by 8 students).

Our first TTAG event will be an online workshop dedicated to **"How to get into college"** on

Saturday APRIL 24 from 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM.

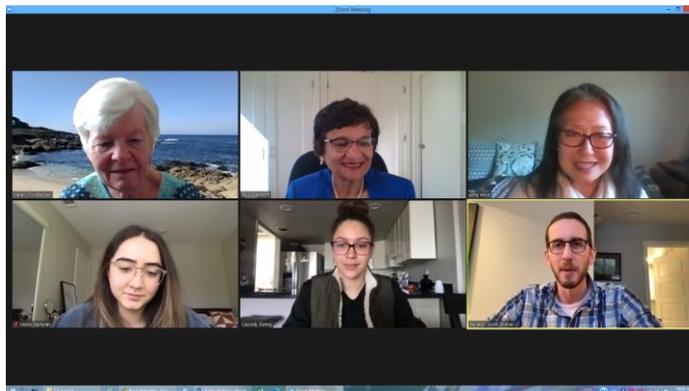
Board member Mary Renner, Membership VP, who is active at expanding our community while publicizing AAUW, has met with Novato-based college counseling firm Eve Cooper Consulting. The event will feature a presentation by Eve Cooper on college selection and applications, followed by a Q&A with Kimia Sattary, Lowell HS senior and San Francisco Branch Tech Trek Alumna. Stay tuned for the zoom invitation and make sure to attend to support our program!

With models such as the TTA Group of the Beach Cities Branch in Southern CA and the Mentoring Group from the Stockton Branch, there is a growing awareness among AAUW-CA branches that formal TTA groups bring lasting value to the TT program itself (i.e. beyond the one week summer camp) by supporting the long-term interest of TTA in their pursuit of STEM through high school, college and beyond. The TTAG program has also the potential of building the next generations of AAUW members. If you want to know more about what is being done statewide, check out in the AAUW-CA website the webinar presented by Carol Holzgrafe entitled "Keeping Track with your Tech Trekkers and why you should" (November 2020).

Future TTAG events will focus on learning more about careers in the STEM topics of interest, answer questions such as "How to pay for college" or "How to land an internship", and offer other life skill coaching, such as resume writing, financial literacy, and smart and safe social media practices. There will also be opportunities for mentorship. If you want to get involved in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me at: aauwsfbranch@gmail.com.

AAUW California Lobby Day and Annual Meeting

AAUW California held a virtual Lobby Day on March 24. I was part of the team that met with Senator Scott Wiener. I presented information about our branch programs and then we lobbied for three issues: reduction of childcare fees, stolen wages of garment workers, and protection from consumer debt collection for victims of economic abuse. It was a very worthwhile event with 120 AAUW participants. Here is a picture with Senator Scott Wiener and his two staffers (bottom row), and our AAUW team of three (top row).



AAUW California will be holding a virtual **Annual Meeting** this year on **Saturday, April 17, 9:30 AM to 12:45 PM**. No travel, no hotel reservations and no cost to attend! You will learn what has been happening in California this past year and it is a lot. You will see the three Speech Trek finalists, learn who our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree is and see the first Equity Award given to former State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. AAUW Board Chair, Julia Brown will join us and we have a special play brought to us by past Co-President Cathy Foxhoven.

Registration: [HERE](#)

Roli Wendorf

Pat Camarena



One Of Murrow's "Boys"

Americans listening to radio news broadcasts during World War II did not expect to hear a woman's voice reporting serious news, but Mary "Marvin" Breckinridge and some other women like her broke through that media barrier. They became known as Murrow's Boys.

A member of a large Kentucky family, Mary Marvin, a French major and history minor, graduated from Vassar in 1927. After her sophomore year, she and three friends traveled to Denmark as observers at the International Confederation of Students. Together with some like minded Princeton students, they subsequently formed the 1925 Princeton Conference, which morphed into the National Student Federation of America. As the Great Depression was making jobs hard to find, Marvin's other diverse interests saw her taking professional cinematography classes, being a London debutante, getting her pilot's license, herding cattle, becoming the first female

courier for her cousin Mary's Frontier Nursing Service, and creating a publicity film concerning the frontier nursing service in rural areas.

This very well prepared and enterprising young woman moved to Washington in 1930 to work as a secretary, first for the Democratic National Committee and then for a Member of Congress. After her photos were used to illustrate her friend's travel book about their journey in Africa, Marvin began to seriously consider a career in photojournalism.

While attending the annual NSFA meeting in 1929, Marvin had been fortunate to meet a young student from Western Washington State College. Edward R. Murrow was speaking to the group to encourage a greater student interest in international and political affairs. Soon he would become president of the federation. Marvin impressed Edward with her interest in the subject. A collaborative friendship between the two young people had begun. A few years later, Marvin would become one of Murrow's "boys".

Well versed in foreign languages and already an experienced European traveler, Marvin went abroad to work as a freelance photographer. A London syndicate hired her. When World War II broke out in 1939, she was well placed. Edward R. Murrow, was by then a well known CBS radio broadcaster based in London during the war's first bombing raids. Encouraging her to speak in a low voice, he put Marvin on the air to give listeners the viewpoint of a young American. CBS executives back in New York were so pleased with her performance that she was asked to broadcast regularly.

Although her first reports were in the "women's areas" of evacuation of the city's children and women firefighters, soon she was sent to Ireland to report on its tacit support of Germany. She subsequently reported from various European cities from her homebase in Amsterdam until forced to flee from the Nazi invasions. Bravely she left on the last available train to Paris and

began reporting from there. After Paris fell, she moved on to Italy.

Due to Foreign Service regulations, Marvin was obliged to give up radio reporting after her marriage to an old friend, Jefferson Patterson, an American State Department employee. After a three day honeymoon, protected by her husband's diplomatic immunity but still not allowed to broadcast, she returned to the dangers of Berlin where she and her husband made prison camp inspections.

Marvin Breckinridge spent most of the rest of her long life abroad as a diplomat's wife with postings in such diverse places as Uganda, Peru, Egypt, and the Balkans. She continued to publish photographs under her maiden name and helped create government handbooks for foreign travelers. She became very well known for her philanthropic activities serving on major community organizations and boards in the US.

In 2010, in recognition of her wartime photojournalism and broadcasts, the Library of Congress included her and seven other women journalists and photographers, including Clare Booth Luce and Dorothea Lange, in its exhibit called "Women Come to the Front: Journalists, Photographers, and Broadcasters During World War II."

www.encyclopedia.com

www.vcencyclopedia.Vassar/alumni

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. marleneford@yahoo.com

April Birthdays

Patricia Arango	April 1
Joanne Mandell	April 6
Roberta Guise	April 28

AAUWSF Board

Contact us:

aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

Co-Presidents

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Kelly Joseph

Treasurer

Corrine Sacks

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Roseaura Valle

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Mary Suter

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Sheila Bost

Tech Trek

Elaine Butler

College/University Liaison

Program VP

Kelly Joseph

Roli Wendoff

April 2021

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

We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.

Robert Louis Stevenson



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



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.