



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

August 2021

## President's Message

### Covid-19

The Covid-19 roller coaster continues! We were very sad to have to cancel the planned membership luncheon, but our concerns have played out. There seems to be no way to predict when we will be able to meet again in person safely.

Our Silver Jubilee Scholarships were awarded on July 31 at a small outside gathering of the awardees and the scholarship committee at Mary Renner's house. Details about the recipients may be found inside this Avanti issue.

The Lunch Bunch did have an in-person luncheon at the Magic Flute in the garden. It was really nice to touch base in person.

### Planning Meeting

Our new fiscal year begins on July 1; that is when dues should be renewed too. The board has a planning meeting scheduled for August 7. We will review the past year's events and issues and plan

for this year. If you have suggestions for programs, please contact me or any other board member. We really need more involvement by members to pursue some of our possible projects.

### Pay Gap

A reminder about the value of AAUW in promoting women's equity and financial security: Equal Pay Day for all women was March 24, 2021. Mother's Equal Pay Day was May 5, meaning that mothers

are paid 70 cents for every dollar paid to white men. **Black Women's Equal Pay Day is August 3, meaning that black women are paid 63 cents for every dollar paid to white men.** AAUW continues to be at the forefront in seeking to close this wage gap!

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

### Happy August!

Here's a reminder of the mission of AAUW-SF: **"AAUW-SF is committed to supporting our community by increasing opportunities for women & girls, initiating collaborations and mentorships & providing leadership for community impact."**

We invite you to become more involved with our branch and join us in creating opportunities for women and girls and fulfilling our mission. COVID-19 impacts the way we communicate, but not our commitment to equity and social justice.

### Work Smart Salary Negotiation

There are two more workshops this summer. Click here to learn more: <https://www.aauw.org/about/our-partners/coca-cola-foundation/#workshops>

### Trek Aluma News

My daughter, Danielle Joseph, Tech Trek Aluma of 1999 and Silver Jubilee recipient, was sworn in as an attorney on July 21, 2021, by Mayor London Breed. Our family is very proud of her for passing the California State Bar Exam on her first attempt. Thanks to sheltering at home, due to COVID-19, she could dedicate the hours to studying.



### **One Book, One Branch**

We are taking a brief break for our book club. We had several books people want to read, and we will resume reading in the fall.

Given our current fluctuating COVID-19 guidelines, please continue to be safe by following the CDC guidelines for wearing masks and washing our hands.

In health and happiness,

**Kelly Joseph**  
Co-President

### **Board Meeting**

There will be no board meeting in August.

### **Afternoons With Books**

**When:** Friday, August 20, at 1:30 pm

**Where:** On Zoom

**Book/Author:** Hiroshima, by John Hersey

**Presenter:** Pat Spencer

To join the discussion, please contact Michelle at for an invitation.

### **International Book Group**

**Date:** Monday, August 16, at 7:00 p.m.

**Book/Author:** Hamnet, by Maggie O'Farrell

**Hostess/Zoom Coordinator:** Barbara Spencer

Please RSVP to Barbara at

### **Mystery/Adventure**

**Date:** August 26, 7:30 pm

**Still on Zoom,** but hopefully in person again soon

**Book/ Author:** **The Other Americans**, by Laila Lalami

**Discussion leader:** Barbara Cohrsen and Beth Wells

Please continue looking for books to recommend at the in person meeting in September.

New members are encouraged to join us.

Request the Zoom link

### **Lunch Bunch**

There will be no meeting this month. We are being very cautious due to the uptick in Covid infections.

We hope that next month is better!

## **Color Line or Color Blind? San Francisco Suffragists' Battle for Inclusivity**

**When: Aug 26, 2021 07:00 PM**

**Zoom webinar** [https://sfpl-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_LX2\\_kY0NSXaFQsYol8n8mg](https://sfpl-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LX2_kY0NSXaFQsYol8n8mg)

White suffragists engaged in a “hot debate” over the “color line” during the San Francisco suffrage movement.

White San Francisco suffragists organized America’s first suffrage march in Oakland, California on August 27, 1908, and women’s clubs nationally were crusading for Whites-only membership. We will explore the searing “hot debate” over the “color line” that erupted within San Francisco suffrage in the years preceding the march.

Evelyn Rose, PharmD, director and founder of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project ([www.GlenParkHistory.org](http://www.GlenParkHistory.org)), has been documenting the activities of Glen Park suffragists and their role in America’s first suffrage march.

Evelyn Rose, PharmD, has been a San Francisco resident for over 40 years, 30 of those in the district in and around Glen Park, just south of Twin Peaks. Evelyn has been active in local history research for 20 years, and for 15 years as a docent and volunteer historian at Muir Woods National

Monument.

For questions about the program or problems registering, contact [sfplcpp@sfpl.org](mailto:sfplcpp@sfpl.org). For accommodations call (415) 557-4557 or contact [accessibility@sfpl.org](mailto:accessibility@sfpl.org).

## **Tech Trek**

Tech Trek Donors

Joanne Mandell  
Mary Graves

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Tech Trek!

**Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator**

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE AND RECIPIENTS**

In mid July, the Silver Scholarship Committee met to review applications. I want to thank the committee. They were Kelly Joseph, Barbara Spencer, Mary Renner, Rosario Valle, and Mary Suter.

We present the new recipients from their personal statements:



### **Guadalupe Franco Castillo**

Franco said that her greatest academic achievement was obtaining an Associate of Art degree in Sociology. She has not rested on her laurels as she pursues a four -year degree in sociology. She is proud to be the first- generation college student in her family and continuing her studies at CSU Stanislaus.

She appreciates the resources in the college application process. Franco wishes to help first generation Latinas to process resources and tools for others to succeed.

She chose this major because it allows her to understand society's issues in everyday life to apply to her interest in social media. Her gender studies have allowed Franco to create a conscious environment on topics that affect others such as religion, sexuality, and gendered violence.

Franco has experiences for volunteering. She has interned in a congressman's office, made instagrams, and was on the Dean's list.

### **Dania Spring Stanley**

Danika plans to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood with a minor in special

education this fall taking 12 credits while working full time. Danika is thrilled to work with preschoolers while creating a caring classroom community.

Danika is a returning student. The internal call to finish her bachelor's degree has never cease even with caring for a family of five. The bachelor's degree will afford her more opportunities in the future.

She appreciates the scholarship as she has two sons in college. Receiving this award will mean one less tuition loan to assume.

Also, Danika did not know she could join AAUW with a two- year degree. AAUW is proud to have Danika become an AAUW member as we witness her changing to a college graduate. Danika is an educator who is focused on her goals.

### **Katarina Michele Spisz**

Katarina is currently a junior at SFSU and is on track to graduate with a BA in Anthropology by June 2022. She has an older sister who has completed college. Her family values a quality education and has needed to search for financial support to achieve their educational aspirations.

Katarina was a SF AAUW Tech Trek past recipient in 2013. She participated on the Stanford campus as a seventh grader. She developed friendships and fostered a deeper appreciation for the physical environment, science, and math.

She believes her degree in Anthropology will provide her with the skills needed to view today's complex societal challenges with an analytical approach. which is needed in our society.

After a couple of colleges Katarina found SFSU to be the environment she needs to thrive. In the future she would like to pursue a Masters in Anthropology or in Museum Studies.

**Marta Mendoza**

Marta has been involved with SFAAUW since she was a Tech Treker. She is currently a junior attending SFSU with a major in computer science. Marta is a Latina student with a single mother in SF. She has been involved in the STEM field and continues her interest in coding. Her computer science was rooted in her curiosity about algebra and learning to code since high school. A big lesson in life is knowing to ask questions can help her to succeed as well as creating a community for support to further her education.

**THE FLY GIRLS**

In the late 1930s, a young pilot named Nancy Harkness Love lobbied Congress suggesting that women pilots be allowed to ferry military planes from factories to American air bases. Such a program already existed in England. After America entered the war, the idea caught on especially since male pilots were becoming less available. The resulting two training programs combined in 1943 and became known as the WASPs. Jackie Cochran was the first director. More than 25 thousand women applied. Fewer than 10 percent were accepted for military style training. Over the course of the war the WASPs flew more than 60 million miles in just about every type of plane in the army air forces. WASP pilots had other responsibilities such as instructing new pilots, testing and demonstrating new planes, and towing targets. Because they were considered civilians and not part of the regular military force, they had to buy their own flight suits and pay for their own lodging and food. They traveled in good weather and bad and often had to land at night on unlit airfields. Thirty-eight of the women died in service. In 1944 as the war was close to ending, the WASP program was disbanded. Thirty years passed before women were finally able to fly military aircraft again. After fifty years women began to fly fighter planes in actual combat. It wasn't until 1977, quite a lengthy time after the WWII was over that the former 'WASPs were finally militarized and given official veteran status

**Pat Camarena**

for their WWII service as noncombat military flight pilots.

Two Asian American young women, eager to be of service during the war, were among the 1,074 original flygirls who joined the WASPS. They never met each other. One survived, one died during her service. One, named Maggie Gee (upper picture) was a native of Berkeley, California. She was the descendant of grandparents who had moved to California from Guangzhou, China in the 1870s. In the 1920s after the Immigration Act of 1924, which restricted immigration from Asia, resentment toward the Chinese grew. Those negative sentiments sometimes overshadowed Maggie's youth. However she loved the Sunday outings with her family to the Oakland airport to watch planes landing and taking off. Flying became something she wanted to pursue when she grew up. Maggie and two of her co-workers at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard saved their money, bought a car, and drove to Texas for six months of intense pilot training. Sometimes mistaken for being Japanese, she was treated with suspicion.

The only other Chinese-American woman in the WASP training program was Ah Ying (Hazel) Lee. from Portland, Oregon. (lower photo) Lee showed an early interest in learning to fly when she joined a local Chinese Flying Club. By 1932 she had graduated from aviation school with her pilot's license. She married a cadet whom she had met in class. Her husband returned to China to fly in the Chinese Air Force but her application to do so was turned down. Returning to the US, Hazel flew commercial and private flights before she joined the WASPS. During the war she too was often the target of discrimination and suspected of being Japanese. No one had ever seen a Chinese woman pilot before. Hazel became one of a group 132 pilots chosen to fly a new P-63 Kingcobra fighter plane to Great Falls, Montana. Tragically, she died at the age of 32 in a freak runway accident there. She was the 38th and last WASP to die in the line of duty.

On the other hand, Maggie Gee returned to Berkeley after the war, earned her BA at Cal, and became a scientist working at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She lived a very long and productive life. In 2010, Maggie Gee was able to attend the White House ceremony as President Obama presented the Congressional Gold Medals to the surviving WASPS.

[www.nationalww2museum.org](http://www.nationalww2museum.org).

[www.history.com](http://www.history.com)

[www.dod.defense.gov](http://www.dod.defense.gov)

### August Birthdays

Elizabeth Ray	August 15
Persis Ainey	August 23
Nancy Shapiro	August 25

#### Birthday Not Announced?

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

**AAUWSF Board**

Contact us:

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

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**August 2021**

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

*The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment*

**Lady Dorothy Nevill**



**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](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.