



JANUARY DATES

- January 5: TTAG Meeting, 7:30pm
- January 11: AAUW-CA Finders-Keepers Webinar on Finding and Retaining Members, 7pm
- January 12: AAUW SF Board Meeting, 7pm
- January 17: International Book Group, 7pm
- January 19: AAUW-CA Marketing Members Webinar, 7pm
- January 20: Mystery/Adventure Book Group, 7 pm
- January 21: Afternoon With Books, 1:30pm
- January 26: Branch-Wide DEI Book Group, 7:30pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2022—Happy New Year! We are well into the 21st Century, a fact that continues to amaze me. I have vivid memories of the fuss about the calendar change to the year 2000. And here we are in the year 2022! I hope everyone had a safe and happy New Year's celebration. Mine was quiet, thanks to the Covid-19 Omicron variant.

AAUW just celebrated its 140th anniversary, and our branch is now 135 years old. We have a storied history both nationally and in San Francisco.

Sarah Hamlin, the first San Francisco Branch president also founded the Hamlin School for Girls in San Francisco. AAUW advocated for the creation of the United Nations in 1945 and was there at its founding, AAUW has fought for women's rights legislation and galvanized the fight for passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009.

AAUW national has storied funding for fellowships for women scholars, but it struggles as to funding for everyday operations. One way that we can all help is to designate AAUW as your charity if you use the Amazon website. All you need to do is sign on to www.smile.amazon.com and do your ordering through that site instead of the regular Amazon website. Amazon donates 0.5% of each purchase to your designated charity.

Let's all try to stay upbeat and healthy in 2022!

Stay tuned! But as I write this message, we are learning of a new Covid variant which may dash our hopes. We will keep you informed by email and in the January Avanti.

Holiday Wishes to All

Whatever holidays you celebrate, I hope they are joyful and safe.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Board Meeting

The next board meet in will be on January 12, at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting on Zoom.

All members are welcome. Contact Barbara at

Afternoons With Books

When: Friday, January 21, at 1:30 pm

Where: Zoom

What: Never Let Me Go, by Kazuo Ishiguro

Moderator: **Paula Campbell**

Zoom coordinator: **Michelle Mammini**

International Book Group

When: Monday January 17, at 7:00 pm

Where: Zoom

Book/Author: The Song of Achilles, by Madeline Miller

Zoom Coordinator: Barbara

Please RSVP to Barbara at

Mystery/Adventure

We are making some changes to our schedule.

Date: January 27 at 7:30 PM.

Location: Zoom

Book & Author: The Bombay Prince, by Sujata Madssey

Reviewer: Roli Wendorf

RSVP: Elaine Butler to get the Zoom link.

Note: Next month Susan Pelks will review **The President's Daughter**, by Bill Clinton and James Patterson

Chapter-wide DEI Book Group Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Date: Wednesday, January 26, at 7:30 PM.

Location: Zoom

Book: The Color of Law. We will be discussing Chapters 8-10

Contact Kelly for Zoom link.

Lunch Bunch

There will be no Lunch Bunch in January.

January Webinars at AAUW California

Happy new year to you all! AAUW California is starting the new year with a bang with several worthwhile webinars:

**Finding New Members from Gen Z to Boomers:
Tuesday, January 11, 7:00 PM**

Attend this webinar to explore creative ideas for finding members by learning new marketing techniques. Learn about the characteristics of the AAUW brand and potential new member personas and how to use them in branch communications. Review examples of targeted messages for the working age and retirement age groups.

To register: [Link](#)

**Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn - Your Key to
Outreach - Part I:**

Wednesday, January 19, 7:00 PM

Social media demystified! Can you take a picture on your cell phone? If so, you can create an account and get started reaching new audiences. We'll make it easy to understand! Part II (February 22, 2022) will focus on how to create effective posts for each platform.

To register: [Link](#)

**Entrepreneurship - Is it for me: Friday January 21,
12:00 PM**

This webinar is the first in the newly started "Lunch and Learn" series aimed drawing younger members by provided career related material. Join Yvonne Campos, a successful entrepreneur who founded three companies and has seen entrepreneurship from the inside out. She started her first company in 1975, a qualitative research consultancy, then in 1983 she founded Campos Market Research, Inc., a full service research and strategy company, and in 2016 she founded Next Act Fund, an Angel Investment Fund. What has she learned along the way? How has entrepreneurship evolved? If she were someone like you starting a company today, what would she do differently?

To register: [Link](#)

Remember that if you can't make it to a webinar, the recording will be available. You can check out all past recordings [HERE](#).

Roli Wendorf

TTAG Event

An Exploratorium Experience

by Rosaura Valle

Hosted by Exploratorium Director of Volunteer Engagement and former AAUW-SF President Deirdre Araujo, the Exploratorium visit on December 5 was attended by seven Tech Trek Alumnae (TTA) chaperoned by Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) organizers Mary Renner and Rosaura Valle. Exploratorium volunteers Sara and Taylor escorted us in a one-hour visit of the floor galleries explaining some of the exhibits and answering questions. The volunteer program at the Exploratorium, which shrunk from 1000 individuals pre-covid to 150 post-covid, "is the soul of the museum" as Deirdre puts it.

It was a great day and the students dived in to experiment with various hands-on activities. A highlight of the visit was for the Tech Trek Alumnae to learn about the Exploratorium Explainer program, which hires and trains high school students each year, and several TTA were spotted talking to the Explainers throughout the galleries.

While most of the galleries were familiar to me, I reminisced of the several visits I paid to this museum while at the original Palace of Fine Arts location, having raised two daughters over two decades in the city. Instead, new to me were the Tinkering Studio and the Bay Observatory Gallery. The latter focuses on local environment, weather

and landscape and is located on the upper floor next to the terrace overlooking the Bay Bridge, a perfect photo backdrop.

No matter how old the bubble exhibit is, it will always be my favorite exhibit at the Exploratorium. And if you are not a fan of optic illusion devices, or the various display of physical phenomena (such as light, motion, electricity, waves etc.) or even the analysis of living organisms in your kombucha beverage¹, maybe there is one thing that will make you head over to Pier 15. It is Scott Weaver's 100,000-toothpick giant sculpture of San Francisco called "Rolling through the Bay": it features all the City's iconic sites, from Ghirardelli Square to the Painted Ladies, and from the Golden Gate Bridge to the gate of Chinatown. Scott was there, explaining in person to visitors how it took him over 3,000 hours over 44 years to make this marble run equivalent, using five tracks and 17 entry points to guide five ping-pong balls through the city's neighborhoods²: art, engineering or both?

STEM³ and STEAM⁴ are relatively common acronyms in education nowadays. However the connection between science and art dates back to the early days of the Exploratorium, although a formal Artist In Residence program only started in 1974. Thanks to its founder, physicist Frank Oppenheimer, the Exploratorium was designed from inception as a "*museum of human awareness that combined art and science while it encouraged play, experimentation, and a sense of joy and wonder*" (as reported by K.C. Cole, friend and author of Oppenheimer's biography). Oppenheimer, a major figure of the Manhattan Project, after being blacklisted from academia during the McCarthy era, found refuge in Colorado running a cattle ranch and becoming a science teacher and educator. He developed an interest in exploring new methods of teaching and learning that would engage student's curiosity and inquiry. These new concepts became the foundation on

which the museum was created, opening to the public in 1969.

Check out below some fun memories of the latest TTAG event!

Notes:

¹ kombucha is a fermented tea beverage made using a combination of bacteria and yeast

²<https://www.exploratorium.edu/video/art-tinkering-scott-weavers-100000-toothpick-sculpture-san-francisco>

³ STEM is an acronym introduced by the National Science Foundation in 2001 that stands for: Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics

⁴ STEAM is an acronym, coined more recently, that aims at adding Art to STEM

Pat Camarena



Bunny's Inspiration

Loosely translated, one meaning of Inspiration, according to Mr. Merriam and Mr. Webster's famous tome, is to be awakened to new possibilities and to begin to transcend ordinary experiences and limitations. A great disappointment early in her academic life, caused Bunny to explore her options. Her decisions from then on have greatly benefited our society.

After being rejected for any of seven available college teaching positions in her field of study (psychology), the newly minted 1969 Phd. graduate from the University of Maryland, Bernice Resnick Sandler was extremely disappointed. She became a lot more than disappointed after a fellow student told her that she would never be hired because she was "too strong for a woman". When she told her husband what had happened, he called it "sex discrimination" a term that she had barely ever heard before.

Inspired by this turn of events, Bernice, usually called Bunny, decided to investigate what legal

rights actually existed for women aspiring to enter academia. Here was a "wrong" she was motivated to make "right". She began to dig into the details of federal law. She learned that originally Title VII of the Civil Rights Act banned employment discrimination by sex but mostly exempted educational institutions. However, President Johnson had amended the order in 1968 to include discrimination based on gender.

Now inspired by her findings, Bunny could and did successfully begin to file complaints with the Labor Department against hundreds of universities and colleges. After investigations began, Congress took notice and called for hearings. Bunny was hired by Congresswoman Edith Green as a subcommittee staff member. Her task was to collect and organize data pertaining to discrimination against women. The law known as Title IX of the Education Act of 1972 resulted from those hearings. Among the far reaching effects of this law was that quotas that limited women's access to law and medical school ended.

For the rest of her career, Bunny continued researching and speaking out about the subtle ways that, in spite of Title IX protections, women could still be held back or discouraged from entering certain career fields. Bernice (Bunny) came to realize that even with Title IX as a good start towards eradication of sex discrimination, it would take a much longer time and other inspired people to bring to light any and all unfair situations.

www.brooklyn.cuny.edu
www.womenshistory.org

Paula Campbell

Playing Now

There's a wonderful new (almost) rom-com now playing at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. At first glance it might seem a bit cliché – older lover gets new younger lover – life is great, till younger lover takes even younger lover, gets married and they have a baby. So what makes this special? Well, maybe that they're mixed race, or maybe even more so that they're NOT mixed gender – all three are men. Talk about diversity !!!

I LOVED author Martin Sherman's Gently Down the Stream. It's beautifully written, acted, directed – even the set and lighting are noteworthy. Martin Sherman is best known for his Pulitzer and Tony nominated, Dramatist's Guild Award play, Bent. Bent is about the persecution of gays under the Nazis. It was later made into a film starring Mick Jagger. Sherman wrote many other plays and screenplays, including one of my favorite films, Tennessee William's Italian bad dream The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone. Gently... is a different kettle of fish. It's tender, romantic, and full of hope that things *will* work out and a happy future *is* possible.

Director Arturo Catricala treats Gently... with the exactly the right touch. It's a serious play, but never heavy. The story is classic – well, 21st century classic. Beau (Donald Curry) an accompanist of well known cabaret singers, meets Rufus (Daniel Redmond) and takes him home for the night. They fall deeply in love, their 30+ age difference doesn't matter. Rufus's bi-polar problem is hard to deal with but he refuses treatment, saying he knows the lows are bad but can't live without the highs. Years pass, and one day Rufus bring home Harry, who's just a few years younger. They're in love and plan to marry. Somehow Beau is included in their lives, and plays

a part in their wedding. Rufus and Harry adopt a boy, which makes Rufus realize he must medicate his bi-polar as it endangers the child. Beau becomes an honorary parent of the baby and the three men and baby become a loving new family.

I strongly recommend Gently Down the Stream. Let me add that the New Conservatory Theatre Center is spacing seats, checking vac. cards and IDs, allowing no food or drink in the house – taking strict precautions. Gently... is closing early in Jan. So reserve your ticket now,

Gently Down The stream,

New Conservatory Theatre Center,
25 Van Ness Avenue at Market, San Francisco, CA
94102.

Through Jan.2022.

Box Office [415-861-8972](tel:415-861-8972)

Online <http://www.nctcsf.org>

Closing Note – saw Winterland at Berkeley Rep. Don't go! Almost left at intermission. Surely the worst play I've ever seen since I DID walk out on Eva Gabor in Broadway's Little Glass Clock in 1956. OMG – second act starts with actors sitting in chairs, facing audience. It's a funeral – one man weeps, louder and louder – then louder -- for 7 – count them – SEVEN minutes. Made the audience wish THEY were dead – or at least out of the theater.

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January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 TTAG meeting 7:00 PM	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Board Meeting 7PM	13	14	15
16	17 International Books 7:30PM	18	19	20 Mystery/Adv 7:30PM	2114 Afternoon w/ Books 1:30 PM	22
23	24	25	26 DEI Book Discussion 7:30 PM	27	28	29
30	31					

I've always tried to go a step past wherever people expected me to end up

Beverly Sills



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.