



President’s Message

APRIL DATES

April 13: AAUW-SF Board Meeting, 7pm

April 15: Afternoon with Books, 1:30pm

April 18: International Book Group, 7pm

April 20: Lunch Bunch, 12 noon

April 28: Mystery/Adventure Book Group, 7:30pm

Aloha

I’m writing this message from Hawaii as we seem to be emerging from strict Covid rules. Fingers crossed! Today my sister and I are taking the bus to the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor — a sad but significant sight.

March has been Women’s History Month with many events in celebration. We have gone back to interviewing candidates for Tech Trek camp, which will happen in person and virtually. We will send girls to camp at Fresno State and UC Davis. Stanford is not participating this year.

As always, we have a loyal group of donors and volunteers for Tech Trek events. Many thanks to those who interviewed the candidates.

The state AAUW annual event will be held by zoom on April 30 from 9 to 3. The Annual Event replaces annual conventions and meetings that had been held in the past. Just go to the aauw-ca.org website to register. You will find a heading for 2022 Annual Event. Click on the box saying “read more” and it will take you to a description of the program and a box at the bottom to register. You must register in order to get the zoom link.

Aloha,

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

P.S. Our Avanti was late last month because our editor had some health issues. We are desperately in need of someone to be a back-up editor. Please, please will someone come forward?

Happy Spring!!

We are looking towards our next fiscal year and are in need of volunteers to be on our board, especially someone to take on the role of President. You can partner with someone and share the duties, as Barbara and I have done.

As Barbara mentioned, we want to have people cross-trained to help keep us moving if our main contributor is ill or unable to complete a task.

We thank those of you who have joined us recently and are committing to help grow our programs. and serve on committees.

I will proudly continue as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator. Our upcoming DEI book club discussion which will take place on Wednesday, April 27, at 7:30 PM around Maya Angelou’s book “I Know Why the Caged Birds Sing”. This will be a one-time discussion on the whole book.

I hope you have a Happy Passover and Easter.

Warmly,

Kelly Joseph, Co-President

Board Meeting

The next board meet in will be on **April 13**, at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting on Zoom. All members are welcome. Contact Barbara at

Afternoons With Books

When: Friday, April 15, at 1:30 pm
Where: Zoom
What: The Midnight Library, by Matt Haig
Moderator: Mary Suter
 Zoom coordinator: **Michelle Mammini**

International Book Group

When: Monday April 18, at 7:00 pm
Where: Zoom
Book/Author American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins
Zoom Coordinator: Barbara Spencer

Please RSVP to Barbara at 415-221-6690

Mystery/Adventure

Date: April 28, at 7:30 PM.
Book & Author: The Secret Keeper, by Alka Joshi
Reviewer: Barbara Cohrsen and Beth WAells
To receive Zoom link
RSVP: Elaine Butler 415-305-2220 or

Lunch Bunch

Where: Absinthe (French Brasserie)
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 12 Noon
Address: 398 Hayes St. (near Gough St)
Phone: 415 551-1590

Tech Trek

Tech Trek interviews
 Many members of the Tech Trek Committee met at the Offices of the Junior League to interview the

prospective 2022 Campers. We have 15 slots for campers. There are 5 places at CSU Fresno, 5 positions at UC Davis and 5 spots at Virtual Camp. The 15 girls were chosen by several members of the interview Committee. Next month we will tell you more about our campers.

Next for Tech Trek, **Send off** party in May. We need some party planners.

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator

Silver Jubilee

SF-AAUW Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund will offer scholarships of \$3000 (three thousand dollars) to help women in their final two years of undergraduate school or graduate program at an accredited college or university for the 2022-2023 fall and spring semesters. Scholarship candidates must have a San Francisco address and/or attend a school within one hundred miles of San Francisco. There are no restrictions on the use of the funds. The Silver Jubilee Scholarship application is due by April 15, 2022. The application may be found at the branch website, which is www.aauwsf.org

TTAG: Tech Trek Alumnae Group April 2022 by Rosaura Valle

April 2022 will be full of TTAG related activities and events.

The TTAG calendar will start on **Sunday April 3rd** with "**How to Land your Ideal Internship**" - a two hour online workshop on how to search for, apply and stand out in high school internship applications. While summer internships are a must for 11th graders, it is good to get an early start to experience the job market and get involved in activities that may profoundly impact student's choices and interests for college and beyond. Not

to mention, learning to write a resume and a cover letter is building fundamental skills for a life time!

Renewing our partnership with the Bay Area Science Festival (BASF), we will host on **April 23rd** an online “**STEM Careers & Society**” panel. A STEM extravaganza, BASF is back this time in Spring! Hundreds of online and in-person STEM-related events and hands-on activities organized by schools, universities, biotech companies, government labs, nonprofit and community-based organizations will take place between April 21 and April 30 throughout the Bay Area (bayareasciencefestival.org).

The “**STEM Careers & Society**” online panel will highlight the interdisciplinary of STEM careers and ultimately illustrate how science and society are profoundly interconnected in our world today. Now more than ever issues such as climate change and the covid pandemic, to name a few, have demonstrated that scientific data must inform public policy, that proper government funding is needed to fuel innovation and the advancement of science, and that science data must be reported to the public in accessible yet accurate terms.

From tech entrepreneurship to intellectual property, from science outreach to public policy, we invite you to join a panel (see registration link below) that will explore how a STEM background can be applied to multiple professional fields, such as business, law, communication and public policy. Please note that one of the panelist, RYANNE RAMADAN, is a 2019 AAUW Fund recipient. We will hear from four women from diverse backgrounds and in different STEM career paths, and then weave the audience's questions into a broader conversation about science and society.

On **April 24** we will attend the **BASF Exhibit** at Oracle Park where we will meet the public and advertise the Tech Trek program which is back in

person this year. Tech Trek Alumnae will take shifts to answer questions and share their experience with middle school students. In addition, four graduate students from a UCSF neuroscience lab will showcase “cool stuff” at our booth. Last but not least, to ensure we engage the public with a variety of activities, we have partnered with SaveNature.org, an organization whose mission is to save natural habitats on the planet, to demonstrate their Insect Discovery Lab. Children and middle school kids will be delighted to hold extraordinary live animals under supervision, and to be guided through fun and colorful insect-related activities by Mary Suter, long-time member of our branch and CalAcademy docent volunteer for many years.

We will end the month of April by hosting a breakout room about “**Start Your Own Branch TTAG**” at the **AAUW-CA Annual Meeting on April 30** in partnership with the South Bay TTAG, formed by Tech Trek Alumnae from three AAUW-CA Branches Torrance, Palos Verdes and Beach Cities from the greater Los Angeles area. We will interview Advisors and Alumnae of the South Bay TTAG while taking questions from Annual Meeting attendees visiting the breakout room.

REGISTER for How to Land your Ideal Internship:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsd-GrrjkiH9LEWe_Si93IY5dXpOFpFLOx

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

REGISTER for STEM Careers & Society at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpfu2hqzsjGdTujbrBdiBxF57AVP0UAWBA> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Pat Camarena**DESPITE THE RISKS**

Mary S.(Kelsey) Peake was a free black young woman who was born in Virginia prior to the American Civil War. When she was six, she was sent to live with her aunt in Alexandria which was then part of the District of Columbia. There she was able to attend school for about ten years. After her family bought a house in Hampton, Virginia in 1839, Mary joined them. Previously, the US Congress had closed Virginia schools to all free black students. Several other southern states had enacted similar laws. Despite the risk and in violation of the law, Mary began to secretly teach both slave and free black children to read and write. She strongly believed that education for all was important as a springboard towards a better life. Despite the personal risk, Mary was convinced that knowledge should be available for all seekers.

A few years after the Civil War began, Mary was among a number of black women who were officially sanctioned by the Union Army to continue their humanitarian work. Although she had married a freed slave who worked in the merchant marine and had a daughter, she

continued to teach. and support herself as a dressmaker.

A nearby fort, Fort Monroe, had been seized by the Union. The fort had become a place of refuge for escaped slaves seeking asylum. Mary taught outdoors nearby under a large oak tree. Camps for the escaped slaves gradually formed. The escaped slaves who lived there were called “contraband” to prevent them from legally being seized and returned to their masters, The American Missionary Association paid Mary a small salary to support her efforts. As their first black teacher, the AMA provided Mary with Brown Cottage for her to use as an indoor classroom. This building has long been considered to be the first building of Hampton Institute later to be called Hampton University. It was there under that oak tree in 1863, that Mary read aloud the Emancipation Proclamation for the first time to the refugee group gathered there. These Virginians were the first Southerners to hear the reading of the historic document.

The tree, now well over three hundred years old, is still standing just outside Hampton University. The Department of the Interior has designated the tree as a National Historic Landmark. The National Geographic Society has honored the historic Emancipation Oak as one of the 10 Great Trees of the World.

www.lva.virginia.gov

www.virginiaforlearners.gov

www.hampton.edu

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AAUWSF Board

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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Coordinator (DEI)

Kelly Joseph

April 2022

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

It's more important to know where you are going than to get there quickly. Do not mistake activity for achievement.

Mabel Newcomer



Avanti Editor

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 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



San Francisco Inc. (CA) Branch

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.