

## President's Message

### MAY DATES

May 4: TTAG Meeting

May 11: AAUW-SF Board Meeting, 7pm

May 16: International Book Group, 7pm

May 18: Lunch Bunch, 12 noon  
DEI Book Club, 7:30pm

May 20: Afternoon with Books, 1:30pm

May 26: Mystery/Adventure Book Group, 7:30pm

**Hello All,**

I'm in the Netherlands admiring the spectacular tulips. It's an amazing sight. I'm sorry to have missed the April events, but I'm sure they went well.

We have been busy with Tech Trek. The girls have been selected, and we are now planning the Send-Off Party for the campers and their families. It will be held on May 21 from 2-4 pm at the Sports Basement on Bryant Street. All members are invited; an email invitation will be sent later.

**Enjoy Spring,**

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

**Happy May!**

I hope you were able to attend the AAUW California's Annual Event 2022 on April 30th. I found it energizing and full of ideas for our branch to educate and grow. That growth cannot happen without you being an active member of this branch. We need people to serve in leadership roles and on committees to accomplish our mission. Attend our upcoming board meeting to learn how you can participate.

We had two events and missing participants for our DEI book group last week. We will review Maya Angelou's "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings", on Wednesday, May 18th at 7:30 p.m. Here is the link:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87462052410?pwd=Tjc4ZVU1bUdCZnVxRWtzUzZTNjhEdz09>

Originally, I was going to delay our meeting further, and I decided to take a break and go to Cancun in a week, so we will meet on May 18th.

### Afternoons With Books

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

**Where:** Zoom

**What:** Rebecca, by Daphne Du Maurier

**Moderator:** Anni Puckett

Zoom coordinator: **Michelle Mammini**

### International Book Group

**When:** Monday May 16, at 7:00 pm

**Where:** Zoom

**Book/Author:** Normal People, by Sally Rooney

**Zoom Coordinator:** Barbara Spencer

Please RSVP to Barbara

### Mystery/Adventure

**Date:** May 26, at 7:30 PM.

**Book & Author:** The Venice Sketchbook, A Novel, by Rhys Bowen

**Reviewer:** Joanne Mandell

**To receive Zoom link**

**RSVP:** Elaine

### Lunch Bunch

**Date:** Wednesday, May 18, 12 Noon

**Where:** Greens Restaurant (vegetarian)

2 Marina Boulevard, Fort Mason

Building A

415-771-6222

Please **RSVP** to

### Tech Trek

#### Tech Trek Party Time

We have chosen our 15 campers and it is time for us all to meet them. It is also time for our 2022 campers to meet each other and their parents to get updated information about their daughter's assigned camp.

**We are meeting at Sport's Basement at their new Stonestown site at 2 PM until 4PM.**

Five of ten of the girls will be attending residential camps at CSU-Fresno and UC Davis, 5 girls each camp. The other 5 girls will be attending a virtual camp at home. They will receive hands on activities and follow the same curriculum as the on campus girls. It will be our first year using the virtual format to enable us to send our usual 15 campers.

Thank you,

Congratulations to Shannon Lee, one of our Tech Trek Alumnae, for her presentation for Earth Day on 4/23/2022. It was entitled Our Earth Our Home. She presented many scientific backed facts about global warming and steps we can take to slow it down. It was well done and gave me some ideas of

how I can do my part. Shannon graduated with a B.A. in Environmental Policy from UCSD. She is employed in her field of study.

**Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator**

**Our Branch Exhibits at the Bay Area Science Festival  
April 24, 2022**



Tori Tran, UCSF graduate student volunteering at our booth, with Mary Renner and Mary Suter. Mary S, a long time docent volunteer at CalAcademy, dedicated her morning to helping children visiting our booth with a fun and colorful kids craft: making butterfly rings!



Mini talk show with Ryanna Ramadan and UCSF neuroscientist volunteers (Ryanna, second from left in the group, is a 2019 AAUW Fund recipient, and speaker at our BASF online panel on STEM Careers & Society on April 23).



Ryanna Ramadan and Preeya Khanna, postdoc at UCSF, demonstrate their medical devices to a curious kid fascinated by science.



Thanks to a partnership with SaveNature.org, we hosted their Insect Discovery Lab which was a great success with the public.

*Photo Credits: Rosaura Valle-Mary Renner*

### Pat Camarena



### The Collector

In spite of being born into a branch of a well-known wealthy New York family, young Peggy

Guggenheim still needed to make some money based on her own merits. Working as a clerk at a local avante-garde book shop brought her into contact with a wide range of bohemian artists who frequented the shop. As a result of these early contacts, she developed an amazingly open mind as to what modern art was and what it could be. She became interested in being part of this evolving art scene.

When she turned twenty-one in 1919, Peggy came into quite a large inheritance. The dark years of WWI and the influenza epidemic were almost over, By 1920, young Peggy decided to move to Paris. There she rubbed elbows with the developing bohemian community of writers, musicians, and painters who had found themselves preferring to live in Paris, (in many cases, living in poverty) Many expats had decided that the Parisian life-style among kindred creative spirits was preferable to returning to their pre-war homelands. Peggy began to move in these social circles acquiring many friends and mentors. Man Ray photographed her. Marcel Duchamp and Constantin Brancusi became close friends.

Many stops and starts ensued as she struggled to open her own financially self-sustaining gallery first in London, then in New York, & eventually in Paris She wanted to feature some of her own growing collection as well as up and coming new artists. Even though the outbreak of WWII was imminent, Peggy was still making plans to open a gallery. She purchased as much abstract and surrealist art as she could. However, a few days before the Nazis marched into Paris, Peggy, her then second husband surrealist artist Max Ernst, and some of their artist friends evacuated and eventually rode out the war in New York. In only seven years, she had assembled her collection of Picassos, Dalis, Magrittes, Miros, one Klee, and a Chagal, among others. .

A few years after the war, Peggy received an invitation to exhibit her surrealist and abstract collection in the disused Greek Pavilion of the prestigious Venice Biennale International Exposition to be held in 1948. By 1949 she had established herself in this unfinished palazzo on the Grand Canal. The refurbished Palazzo Venier dei Lioni was reborn as a lovely showplace but not just for Peggy's own modern art acquisitions Magr. Over the ensuing years, the Palazzo morphed into a well known gallery for up and coming modern artists in combination with works on loan from other museums,

The Palazzo Venier dei Lioni became one of the few European collections of modern art that also promoted a great number of works by American artists. Here, in her favorite city, amongst her beloved treasures and her Lhasa Apsos, is where Peggy Guggenheim joyously lived out the rest of her quirky life. A foundation supported by the Guggenheim Trust now manages her collection, and continues to support the advancement of new artists.

This year, the Venice Biennale will hold their international contemporary art exhibition from April through November. Close by, and well worth a visit, is Peggy Guggenheim's palace along the Grand Canal.

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

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

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

[www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk)

## Playing Now

**Paula Campbell**

### Octet

Wow – has this ever happened to you? Arrived at Berkeley Rep for matinee performance of Godess, find theatre closed. But playing in theatre across the patio is Octet. Turns out there's been a program change. OK – so today we're going to see Octet. I use the rest room, and there's an essay on the door about eight part harmony choirs – Octet – eight parts – hmm –what does this suggest? Turns out Octet is a musical – eight singers – no instruments except the singers' bodies. I'm starting to feel turned off. There's a handout on my seat about the E. Goostman Faith Center, which, it says, is closely involved with love, karate, knitting, and self awareness. It says the center is named for Eugene Goostman, the first chatbot ever to pass the Turing test at over 80%.

Chatbot – Turing test – what is this?

The stage is set with eight chairs, arranged in a circle. The actors file in, sit down, and one identifies herself as the leader of today's group session. Okay, I think I get it. The show is the meeting of some kind of therapy group. The members are involved with computers and identify themselves as addicts. Oh, now I really get it – they're internet addicts. I begin to wonder if there's some way I can sneak, unnoticed, out of the theatre. But that's hard to do since I'm seated in the first row. I gird my loins for what may follow.

The group leader identifies herself, and asks for a member to start by telling their story. One woman volunteers – and then the singing starts! **OMG** --

I'm electrified – it's amazing – brilliant – touching – funny as hell. For two hours the eight participants sing their stories, their ideas, their experiences. Some are heartbreaking, others hilarious – all are fascinating and beautifully performed.

I've never seen anything quite like this. If it was closer to home (I'm not fond of the drive to Berkeley) I'd probably go back to see it again.

I can't remember having this much fun watching a stage performance. I urge you to see it. It's a spectacular show – but not a spectacle.

**Berkeley Rep.**

**Octet**, through May 29. Berkeley Repertory

Theatre, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley

Tickets: Box office: 510 647-2949 Online

<http://www.berkeleyrep.org>

Tues – Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm, Sat., Sun, 2pm.

**AAUWSF Board**

Contact us:

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

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Coordinator (DEI)

Kelly Joseph

**May 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 TTAG	5	6	7
8 Happy Mothers Day	9	10	11 Board Meeting 7PM	12	13	14
15	16 International Books 7:30PM	17	18 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon DEI Book Group 7:30 PM	19	20 Afternoon/ Books 1:30 PM	21
22	23	24	25	26 Mystery/Adv 7:30PM	27	28
29	30	31				

*I've always tried to go a step past wherever people expect 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](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.