



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

October 2021

President's Message

Fall is Here!

Despite the Covid-19 uncertainties, AAUW is moving along! There are three virtual AAUW Funds events this Fall. Pre-pandemic, these events were luncheons held around the state to highlight the AAUW fellowship recipients. The virtual events will take place on October 23 from 10am to 12pm, October 30 from 10-12, and on November 7 from 1-3pm. The events are free, but you will need to register on the state website, www.aauw-ca.org. This is a wonderful opportunity to see what AAUW's years of fundraising have produced.

Women's March

There is a San Francisco and Bay Area Community Organized March for Reproductive Justice this Sunday, October 2. Participants will line up at Grove and Hyde at 10:45 am, and the march will begin at 11:00 down Market Street to the Embarcadero. There will be no speakers, and all are invited. Masks are required.

Social Justice

October 21 is Latina Equal Pay Day, marking how far into the year Latina women must work in order to have earned what the average man had earned the entire previous year.

For my birthday, I visited the Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park in Richmond. For those of you who have not been, it is in a beautiful setting

on the bay. It celebrates the efforts of women in the ship building industry during World War II. Our

branch had a field trip there several years ago and were able to hear Betty Soskin talk about her experiences in the war effort. Mrs. Soskin just turned 100 years old and is the oldest living park ranger. Although she has had some health issues, she is still able to give occasional virtual talks. Mrs. Soskin, who is African American, gives a different take on the history by pointing out the racial and gender discrimination that existed. At the beginning of World War II, unions would not admit Black men or women, and they had to be union members to work in the shipyards. They were eventually admitted late in the war. The museum also has a number of videos highlighting the history of Richmond, including the effect of the Japanese internment order. I highly recommend a visit.

Stay well and upbeat,

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Fall is upon us!

I've just returned from a Las Vegas softball tournament and am ready to get ideas for books to read about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). "AAUW seeks to promote inclusion and awareness for all members to create an equitable, sustainable and inclusive membership reflective of today's world." Our reading and conversations allow us to discuss relevant topics and seek ways to fulfill the mission within our branch. We are educating our minds and growing. I will send a survey out this month for book suggestions. Forward your recommendations to me as soon as possible.

We need your help in strengthening our Bay Area college and university partnerships. If you have any connections, please let us know. Email me at kelly.wysinger@sbcglobal.net with the name, business title, email address, and phone number. We want to engage students, graduates, faculty, and staff.

Wellness is a priority for me. I've been meditating daily, for three years. Meditation was essential to my well-being during these past 18 months. It's great to take a few minutes everyday to get centered and truly breath. You can do as little as one minute or as long as an hour. Some medical plans, such as Kaiser, provide free access to a mediation app for your phone or tablet. The AppleWatch has a breathing app that can remind you to take one-minute breaths throughout the day.

Keep active and do something that brings you joy, at least once a day.

In health and happiness,

Kelly Joseph, Co-President

Board Meeting

The next board meet in will be on October 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting on Zoom.

All members are welcome. Contact Barbara at

Afternoons With Books

When: Friday, October 15, at 1:30 pm

Where: Zoom

What: A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Khalid Hosseini

Moderator: Connie Armitage

International Book Group

We are trying to return to in person meetings!

Date: Monday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: A Long Petal of the Sea, by Isabelle Allende

Hostess:

Zoom Coordinator: Barbara Spencer
Please RSVP to Barbara at

Mystery/Adventure

Date: October 28 at 7:30 PM.

Location: Zoom

Book & Author: The Last Bookshop in London, by Madeline Martin

Reviewer: Susan Schwartz

RSVP: Susan a

Lunch Bunch

We will not be meeting this month. Keep checking here. We hope to be able to get together again as soon as it is safe.

October Webinars from AAUW California

There are several worthwhile webinars coming up this month from AAUW California:

Beyond the Newsletter!: Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 PM

"Oh gosh, I didn't know about that!" How many times have you heard that comment? How can you get the word out? Explore an arsenal of different publicity tools to promote branch events to your members and the public. Some are old; some are new. All are needed. Presented by our very entertaining Dawn Johnson.

To register: [Link](#)

AAUW Fund Events: October 23, October 30, November 7

This year California has 37 AAUW Fellows and grant recipients. Their talks will be divided into three sessions. Attend these live virtual events showcasing their personal stories and fascinating projects.

To register:

[October 23rd at 10:00 AM - Link](#)

[October 30th at 10:00 AM - Link](#)

[November 7th at 1:00 PM - Link](#)

Roli Wendorf

Tech Trek

The question of the month might be, “What does the future of Tech Trek for 2022 look like?” As you can imagine, this is a difficult question to answer given the state of Covid in the U.S.

Camp Directors are consulting with our campus contacts to determine if and where residential camps will be allowed on campus in 2022. We’ll be reviewing this information and discussing our 2022 options at the Tech Trek annual meeting on October 10th. Watch your email for updated information following the meeting.

Because of the uncertainty, we will need to be flexible in our planning process again this year. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

AAUW California has new Tech Trek leaders

Effective October 1, 2021. It was a long and wide search to find two leaders to take over for Susan Negrete and Alice Hill, whose resignations are effective at the end of September 2021.

Karen Manelis has been selected as Program Director and Susan Steckclair as Financial Liaison.

Karen is a former AAUW California President during the time Tech Trek was started by Marie Wolbach at Stanford University. Karen started the first Fresno Camp the following year. She is the current director of the Washington state Tech Trek camps and is a member of the Davis and California Online branches.

Susan is a former president of the Sunnyvale-Cupertino branch and has been active with the Sierra Club recently as their treasurer. She has a financial background with Quicken and QuickBooks.

We are excited to have these two leaders join the AAUW California Leadership Team as we move Tech Trek into the future.

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Co-ordinator

Pat Camarena



PAVING THE WAY

Like most of us, Hazel Scott experienced many ups and downs in her life. Her Trinidad born mother recognized her natural gift for playing the piano, After auditioning at the previously unheard age of eight for a place in the Julliard School of Music, she was awarded a scholarship. Although classically trained, as a teenager, she became more

attracted to jazz, played in a jazz band. even hosted her own radio show for a while. Her skill at improvising and jazzing up the classics made her very popular. She became a sought after entertainer at New York's Cafe Society, which was one of the few clubs that didn't segregate black and white audiences. By 1940 when she was barely twenty years old, she had soloed at Carnegie Hall and released her first album. Her career was going well. She began to perform in other cities and was making a very good living. She refused to play in clubs that segregated its customers. After performing in a musical, she began to get offers to play herself in Hollywood movies. Sometimes her objections to the costumes assigned to the black performers got her into trouble with the studio execs. She refused to return to the set until the costumes were changed. Because her behavior was costing the movie companies time and money, she began to be offered fewer roles.. Returning to New York City, her marriage to Adam Clayton Powell, the city's first black city councilman, put her back in the spotlight. Although her husband objected to her performing in nightclubs, she continued to accept concert dates. One of her unique piano gimmicks was to sit on a stool between two pianos and play them both at the same time.

Hazel's musical career was going well until the early 1950s. During the years of McCarthyism many entertainers were accused of being Communist sympathizers and blacklisted from getting future employment, Hazel was caught up in this right wing movement. Although she testified before Congress and strongly criticized the whole process, her talk show was abruptly canceled and concert opportunities fell off. Her marriage was crumbling. Her mental health was deteriorating. She suffered a nervous breakdown.

She was to turn her musical life around in the late 50s by moving to France where she performed in concerts and had a part in a movie. While in Europe in the 60s she involved herself in civil rights

protests. After returning to New York In the late 60s she began to perform again and also continued to support the growing civil rights movement. By this time jazz artists like Hazel had new competition in the musical world:...Rock & Roll. A new musical genre was beginning to catch the ear of American audiences. Many black jazz artists were overshadowed for a time.. Hazel Scott's career never rose to its former glory again until social media came on the scene. Hazel and other black artists like her paved the way for the myriad of other wonderful musicians we enjoy today.. You can go to YouTube to see her playing the two pianos at once.

www.openculture.com

www.nytimes.com/2021/06/30

www.nytimes.com/2019/01/07

October Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Carol Robinson | October 1 |
| Cathy Corcoran | October 3 |
| Mary Jane Mikuriya | October 8 |
| Harriet Sollad | October 10 |
| Michelle Mammini | October 13 |
| Esther Wong | October 23 |
| Patricia Spencer | October 27 |
| Leslie Yuan | October 27 |

AAUWSF Board

Contact us:

aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

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Kelly Joseph

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Tech Trek

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Program VP

Kelly Joseph

Roli Wendoff

October 2021

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

One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries.

A.A. Milne



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.