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# AVANTI

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

August 2022

## Month at a Glance

### **August 10, 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

TTAG Committee & Intern Presentations – via ZOOM

- RSVP: Rosaura Valle

### **August 13, 10 a.m.**

Membership Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

### **August 15, 7 p.m.**

International Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book/Author: “Klara and the Sun,” by Kazuo Ishiguro
- RSVP: Barbara Spencer

### **August 19, 11-12 p.m.**

“Through the Window and into the Mirror,” with Dr. Renee Horton

- RSVP: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/through-window-and-mirror-narratives-african-american-stem-professionals-dr-k-renee-horton>

### **August 19, 1:30 p.m.**

Friday Afternoon Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book/Author: “The Giver of Stars,” by Jojo Moyes
- RSVP: Michelle Mammini

### **August 25, 7:30 p.m.**

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book/Author: “The Guest List,” by Lucy Foley
- RSVP: Elaine Butler
- Note our next meeting (9/22/22 at 7PM). Please read books to suggest for the 2022/23 List. We need to pick 11 books. You’ve always chosen a good variety of mystery and Adventure books for the group to read. Thank you.

## Co-President Messages

### Potrero Hill Stem Event

Our branch had a table at the Potrero Hill Stem Event held outside the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on Saturday July 16. We had information on our branch, Tech Trek, and TTAG (Tech Trek Alumnae Group). Mary Suter had materials for children to color and make butterfly rings. Mary Renner and I helped. TTAG member Azalea Artiga participated too and was able to answer people’s questions about the Tech Trek experience. We had originally planned to have more members there, but our ranks were reduced by Covid infections. It was a lovely day, and we made some good contacts.

### Membership Renewals

We are all very frustrated by the new national website and the difficulty of paying our dues on it. As a result, it appears that membership renewals are lagging. As you may recall, our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. Current dues are \$88, of which the branch gets \$1.00. The rest go to national and state dues. Do remember that \$64 of the dues amount is tax deductible. If you do not want to deal with the national website, you can always write a check to AAUW-SF for \$88 and mail it to Corrine Sacks whose address is in the directory.

### More Branch Accomplishments

Last month’s listing of our branch activities failed to include the Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) presentation at the AAUW California Annual Event on

How to Start Your Own Branch TTAG. Our branch partnered with some Southern California groups to make this presentation. We are very proud of TTAG and Rosaura's leadership. Enjoy the San Francisco summer — wind and fog at my house!

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

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Dear Members,

The beginning of the year makes a time to reflect, celebrate accomplishments and plan for the future. Here's what's coming up:

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

I am scheduling a meeting to discuss who we are as a branch and how we uphold our goal of being a diverse, equitable, and inclusive branch. I will present podcast and books for us to read, to allow us to have deep conversations. Your suggestions are encouraged and welcomed.

Through the Window and into the Mirror: Narratives of African American STEM Professionals with Dr. K. Renee Horton. August 19, 11-12 p.m.

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/through-window-and-mirror-narratives-african-american-stem-professionals-dr-k-renee-horton>

Have a wonderful August!  
(From sunny Bayview)

**Kelly Joseph, Co-President**

### **Potrero Hill STEM Festival**



Our branch staffed a table at the Potrero Hill STEM Festival on Saturday, July 16. Our purpose was to inform people of our existence and goals, to make contacts for possible new members, and outreach to educators and others interested in our Tech Trek camps. The venue was the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, which has many programs for youth and sponsors the STEM Saturdays. We exchanged information with two leaders of the PHNH, Dr. Coleman and Sharon Johnson. They will help get word of our Tech Trek camps to 7th grade math and science teachers, who are the originators of applications to the camps.

Happily, a newly-minted STEM teacher who will teach robotics this fall at Willy Brown Middle school saw our Tech Trek sign and came over to talk to us about it. She is excited to be able to enrich her students' education with a chance to attend a camp. This is precisely the kind of result we were hoping for!

We were less successful in recruiting new members, though two women expressed an interest. One is a mother of a 7th grader who is very enthusiastic about her daughter's attending a camp and may believe being a member enhances her daughter's chances. The other is running for supervisor and may have just checked a box. Our branch badly needs new, active members who might eventually fill Board seats. We rarely do outreach. All members could help in this effort by thinking of people they know and inviting them to join us.

A reporter from *The Bay Area View* asked us for a blurb about our being at the Festival; we may merit a little publicity there.

Special thanks to Mary Jane and Azelea for volunteering to help with the tabling! Azelea is a Tech Trek alum who enthusiastically answered questions about the camps. And Barbara, who stayed most of the day, and Mary Suter for again organizing the making of butterfly rings to attract kids over so we could snag the parents' attention.

#### **Mary Renner, Membership Vice President**

#### **Tech Trek**

Just like that 2022 camps are finished. It has been exciting with the return of some residential camps and two virtual venues. COVID is still active as one of our girls at UC Davis camp was sent home with COVID on the Wednesday of her week. It has been a challenging and complicated year for the camp directors and our TT families. Even with complications and changing rules our campers seem to have had a good experience. Mark your calendar for September 10! We are inviting our campers back to tell us about what they did either at camp or at home with coaches. The location is still being determined.

#### **Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator SF Branch**

#### **Doggedly Determined**



Perhaps it is hard to believe but Title IX has passed the half century mark of its existence. Title IX is the most commonly used name for the federal civil rights law in the United States that was passed as part of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX is important because the law requires universities to respond promptly and effectively to address any report of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct and actively take steps to prevent it.

At the same time, Patsy Mink was just getting her feet wet in Washington as an elected member of the House of Representatives after many years of involvement in politics in her home state of Hawaii. Patsy had become the first Hawaiian woman elected to Congress, the youngest member from the youngest state, and the first Japanese-American woman ever to be a member of the House. An undaunted dynamo Patsy would serve six consecutive terms. Among her many legislative interests were promoting educational opportunities for women and gender equality. Patsy Mink co-authored and advocated for the passage of the Title IX Amendment of the Higher Education Act. She also introduced the Women's Educational Equity Act and supported the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

After leaving Congress, Patsy served in other important government positions such as the assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Pay inequality and violence against women were other issues on her radar that we are still wrestling with today over fifty years later.

Title IX was amended in 2020 to include sexual harassment or assault, and other forms of sex discrimination. There has also been a lasting effect on women's participation in athletics. The Department of Education announced in July of this year that it plans to reinstate Title IX regulations tossed out by the Trump administration under the less than watchful eye of Betsy DeVos. Proposed changes would combat sexual discrimination in schools by boosting victim protections and modifying language to include sexual orientation and gender identity for LGBT+ students.

Stay tuned!

Among other honors richly deserved by Patsy: in 2002, Congress renamed the Title IX amendment to the Higher Education Act as the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. President Obama honored her posthumously with the Medal of Freedom. In 2003, she

was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. In June of 2022, her portrait was unveiled in the U.S. Capitol Building.

### Pat Camarena

#### Playing Now



Just saw Martyna Majok's Sanctuary City, now playing through August 14 at Berkeley Rep.

It's hard for me to review this play for a number of reasons:

1. It's a two character play, with a third character who enters only about fifteen minutes before the play ends.
2. There's no set – no furniture -- it's a bare stage, with a low small platform stage right, on which the actors can sit, and the top of a small staircase rising at stage left. The staircase is used only once, in the last scenes of the play.
3. The main characters are named B and G, stands for Boy, Girl. The third character, who onstage for a very short time is Henry.

Why does this make it hard to review? Well for one thing the main characters aren't really people – they are stock figures meant to symbolize a category of people. That's why only Henry has a name. For another thing, I'm sick to

death of one act playing with only 2 characters and no set or costumes. This is a money saving tactic, blamed on Covid 19 causing smaller audiences, which leads to less income for theaters. It would be wiser for theaters to have one less production and use that money to beef up what they do produce.

Let's get to the play itself now. Sanctuary City is about the plight of immigrants. B came to the US as a child, on his mother's visa. She has now overstayed the visa by nine years. This legally makes her and her son criminals, subject to prison or deportation. She has decided to return to her native country, and gives B the choice of staying here or leaving with her. G also came to this country as a child on her mother's visa. BUT, her mother has taken the citizenship exam, passed it, and is now a full fledged citizen, which carries over to her minor child G. G is a citizen, and B is an illegal alien.

So – B and G -- what to do – they've been best friends since they met in the third grade. They know the only way for B to get citizenship is to marry a citizen. (FYI – there's a cottage industry in this country of female citizens who marry male illegals – for cash payments, often brokered by unscrupulous lawyers. I've known about this since I was a child in NYC. It's common knowledge.) B and G talk themselves blue discussing marriage. B gives G an engagement ring. They invent a game, in which they ask each other the questions the Immigration examiners ask. If the couple is deemed false they are both subject to years in prison and huge fines. So they need to get their stories straight.

They ask each other about everything the examiners might ask – from names, ages, etc. of family members, to deeply personal things -- what their bodies look like – scars, moles, etc. Watching them do this it becomes clear that they haven't seen each other's bodies – it's a sexless relationship.

They argue a lot – G goes off to college in Boston, B is stuck in his dead end food service job. They fail to carry

out their plans to meet on holidays. G needs to study, B needs to work. As an illegal worker he gets stuck with working all day-shifts on holidays, such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, New Years, when legal workers get the time off. The two also often fail to return each other's phone calls.

Something is so wrong – and soon we find out what that is. G is home from college and at B's apartment. Suddenly we hear a door open, and up the steps and into the apartment comes Henry. After a lot of skating around, B finally admits to G that he and Henry have lived together for the last two years – they are lovers. G is stunned, then furious at Henry. She points out that he and B can't marry legally, so being together destroys B's chance at citizenship. Henry thinks G is only doing this to get money from B. Eventually both G and Henry realize that B has deceived both of them. G returns his ring to B, and leaves. Henry leaves as well, knowing that any future with B is doomed. B is left alone on the stage, as the light goes out.

The cast, Hernán Angulo - B, María Victoria Martínez - G, Kim Fische, - Henry, are excellent, moving and believable in their roles. The director, David Mendizábal does a competent job. He seems somewhat hindered by the script. When the house lights go out, and the stage lights up, B and G enter. She says a line, he says a line – and the stage goes dark. Then the stage lights up, and they each repeat the line they just said – with very hard to discern, if any, differences. This happens five times. Then they each say a different line – lights on/off five times. At this point I wondered how hard it would be to walk out – leave the theater. Eventually B and G started speaking full sentences that made sense, and I was glad we hadn't left. But I couldn't help wondering if that was in the script, or a directorial decision. It's possible it was meant to indicate the passage of time, that B and G said these things to each other over a period of years. But who knows. If it was in the script it didn't work and the director should have fixed it. No play should open with something that makes the audience want to walk out.

I'm hesitant to recommend this play to anyone. The idea – the plight of immigrants, especially illegals, is clearly and movingly demonstrated. But the script is repetitious and sometimes boring. I found myself looking at my watch way too frequently. In the lobby, after the play, I heard someone comment on what a “powerful experience” the play was. I don't agree – it was trite and somewhat forced. How could G not know B was gay. From third grade through age they'd often slept in the bed but never had sex. Really!

In sum, Sanctuary City is a mixed bag.  
 Berkeley Rep. Sanctuary City, through August 14.  
 Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley

Tickets/Box office: 510-647-2949  
 Online: <http://www.berkeleyrep.org>  
 Times: Tues – Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm, Sat., Sun, 2pm.

**Paula Campbell**

**August Birthdays**

<b>Peg Jackson</b>	August 10
<b>Elizabeth Ray</b>	August 15
<b>Perses Ainey</b>	August 23
<b>Nance Shapiro</b>	August 25
<b>Kathlyn Hart Alford</b>	August 25



**AAUWSF Board****Contact Us:**[aauwsfbranch@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsfbranch@gmail.com)**Co-Presidents**Barbara Spencer  
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(DEI) Coordinator:**

Kelly Joseph

*Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.*

**Thomas A. Edison**

**Avanti Editor**

AAUW

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Address Correction Requested

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), founded in 1881, is the nation's leading organization advocating equality 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.