



empowering women since 1881

AVANTI

www.aauwsf.org

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

November 2022

Month at a Glance

Nov 2, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

Nov 14, 7:00 p.m.

AAUW SF Board Meeting

Nov 12, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

AAUW Fun - Recipient Presentations

Hear Presentations by more stimulating fellows and grant recipients! Plan on joining us to learn what your Fund dollars are supporting AND perhaps line up a speaker for your branch. So don't miss out this year. Zoom over to this year's AAUW Fund Event on Saturday, November 12th

Registration is required:

<https://bor.aauw-ca.org/sandy/1NtRwvMGIn6y763iM7635YvHUJAyBC.TCK763TipNVyMe0jmbhmg/iORMrl4DI892dyGrKuOUc5sg>

Nov 17, 7:30 p.m.

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: All The Devils Are Here by Louise Penny
- RSVP: Elaine Butler

Nov 18, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro
- RSVP: Michelle Mammini

Nov 21, 7:00 p.m.

International Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: The Paris Bookseller by Kerri Maher
- Reviewer/RSVP: Nancy Shapiro

Lunch Bunch

There will be no Lunch Bunch in November and December because of holiday festivities. We will start in January 2023. Email Mary Suter if there are any questions

Co-President Messages



Hello All,

www.kqed.org/voterguide - Discusses statewide and many local ballot measures and candidates. You need to click on the candidate or proposition for a detailed discussion that includes who is providing financial support.

www.lwvsf.org/procon - Click on the box that says "Full Guide" for the San Francisco League of Women Voters' discussion of state and some local ballot measures.

www.growsf.org/voter-guide - Has candidate endorsements and local and state ballot measures. Again, click on the candidate or measure for more information.

www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2022/california-voter-guide-november - Has endorsements and the reasons behind them.

Excellent candidates for the San Francisco Community College Board are Vick Chung, Anita Martinez, and Susan Solomon.

PLEASE VOTE AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Happy November!

Voting is our top priority for this time of year. Please VOTE!

You will be sent a doodle poll to select a couple of movies to view for our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion conversations. We've also selected a couple of books during this year. There's more to come soon!

In the meantime, have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and stay safe.

Kelly Joseph, Co-President, DEI Coordinator

Tech Trek

I have finished Tech Trek 2020 by sending Certificates of Completion to those unable to attend the September Welcome Back Party.

We have several new members of AAUW and T-Tag. We are getting ready for 2023. I have not heard how many campuses will be offering residential opportunities next summer. If you know a San Francisco 7th grade teacher of math or science subjects, please send me their contact information.

Thank you everyone.

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator

elainebutler124@comcast.net

New Branch Website

Dear Members,

It seems to be the season of new websites. AAUW National has a new website this year. But ***much better news*** is that our Webmaster, Roli Wendorf, has been working on a new, improved website for our chapter. It is not complete, but looks wonderful. This means there is a new URL to reach it:

sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net

Given that this is not as intuitive as previously, I suggest you put it in your contacts under AAUW San Francisco, so you can easily find it.

Thank you, Roli, for all your work on the website, especially since you are recovering from back surgery!

Mary Renner, Membership VP

Tech Trek Alumnae Group Parent Panel

It was a first in many respects. On October 13, we hosted our first parent only event with a panel of Tech Trek Alumnae parents who shared their experience and insight on their daughters' middle to high school transition, academic and non-academic challenges, and more. It was also the first year that we were welcoming a Tech Trek cohort, returning from residential and virtual Summer camps, into an existing Tech Trek Alumnae Group. While we have had a Tech Trek program for 20 years in this branch, the Tech Trek Alumnae program was only launched two years ago. Due to the two-year covid hiatus,

this was the first time we could finally bridge the two programs together. We are now officially ready to support a successful pipeline of young women, from Tech Trek campers to Tech Trek Alumnae, down a STEM path.

Why would the Tech Trek Alumnae Group plan an event catered to parents only? Parents support their kids in many different ways and are behind their children's school success. Navigating the school and college systems is one of parents' numerous challenges. For our Tech Trek parents with daughters in 8th grade, an important milestone is selecting and applying to high schools in San Francisco, a process occurring in the Fall, making this a timely event. This is the season for school open houses, and while applications to public schools in San Francisco follow a lottery system, applications to private or denominational schools follow a unique process that mirrors that of college.

Parents on the panel had daughters in TechTrek 2017, 2019, and 2020, the latter being the selected cohort that did not attend in person due to the pandemic. Typically, the major challenge in the middle to high school transition is the student losing friends and making new friends, as middle school students get scattered to various high schools in the city. However, for most parents on the panel, the major challenge was covid. The covid pandemic emphasized the difficulty of the high school socialization process: without the in-person component, students turned to heavily relying on social media, increasing their screen time and digital dependence. Covid also affected parents and students in the high school selection process: one turned down an admission to SOTA, as it seemed unheard of to study musical theater online, while another counted on merit admission into a high school that switched, that very year, to a lottery system.

Facing student mental health issues was another challenge that was openly discussed. Listening more than talking, supporting more than judging, finding resources

more than resolving issues appeared recurring and shared experiences in this parent pool. Accepting the concept that maybe college isn't for everyone and that sometime a gap year or attending community college is preferable to a typical high school to college path, or recognizing the negative impact of the peer pressure existing in many private schools regarding acceptance in elite colleges, are some of the realities parents may need to face. In short, parents need to arm themselves with critical thinking to align with what is best for their child, not what they might have anticipated for them.

Finally, while all the girls were enthused by their Tech Trek experience, two out of three developed other areas of interest in high school, a demonstration of student's growth. Feedback gathered on improving Tech Trek was mostly about keeping the connections made through the camp experience, which is exactly the goal of TTAG. In person events like the Women in STEM panels we have hosted¹, career fairs and an Alumnae mentorship group were also suggested to support Tech Trek Alumnae's interest in pursuing STEM.

Overall it was a successful, productive and well-attended event, which was promoted through other AAUW branches with similar TTAG programs (e.g. South Bay TTAG, Orinda Moraga Lafayette branch) and the TechTrek program at the state level. Thirty-one participants joined in the zoom event from far and wide in California, including the East Bay, San Diego, and many Southern California locations. We are grateful to our speakers for taking the time out of their hectic family schedule and for sharing their experience with eloquence and candor. It was a very helpful and uplifting event for all, as the chat comments testified. We hope these parents will continue assisting TTAG in its future programming.

Note1: Women in STEM, January 2020, Junior League, San Francisco; Women in STEM, October 2020, online, 10th

Bay Area Science Festival; STEM & Society, April 2022,
online, 11th Bay Area Science Festival

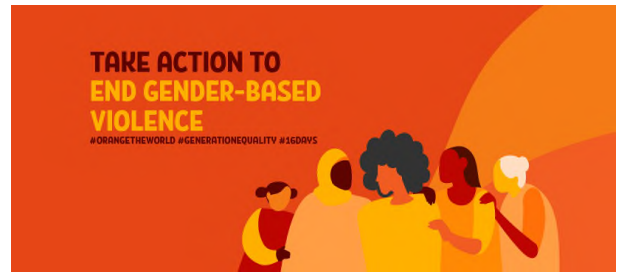
About TTAG: The Tech Trek Alumnae Group is a community of like-minded students interested in STEM who can connect as they go through middle school, high school, and beyond. The AAUW-San Francisco TTAG, which was launched two years ago, produces Women in STEM Panels, workshops around college application, a newsletter with information on STEM activities in the Bay Area, and STEM-related summer opportunities. The San Francisco Branch TTAG also offers an internship program and a college scholarship to benefit active TTAG members.

Rosaura Valle, TTAG Coordinator

Eliminating Violence Against Women

We live in a world where nearly one in three women have been abused in their lifetime, a global concern that leads to many gateway issues. Higher rates of depression, anxiety disorders, unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases—the list goes on. Furthermore, less than forty percent of women who experience violence seek help.

Determined to take a stand, the United Nations named November 25th as the international day for the elimination of violence against women. Concurrently, they founded the UNiTe campaign in 2008, a multi-year effort to eliminate and prevent gender-based violence by 2030. Hoping to raise awareness, the UNiTe campaign encourages everyone to wear orange on the 25th of each month; this bright color represents a future that is free of violence against women and girls! Take a look at their websites to learn more about their cause and what you can do to help, and be sure to wear orange on November 25th in support.



<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/unite>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

Caitlin Dainas, Avanti Editor Intern

The Midnight Ride You Probably Never Heard Of



On the evening of April 18th in 1775, 41 year old Bostonian Paul Revere along with two other men was given the task of riding to nearby Lexington, Massachusetts to alert the local militia that British soldiers were about to march through the countryside. Most students probably remember hearing this story and its aftermath in history tests or having to memorize Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s famous poem. The American Revolution was beginning!

However, two years later, a lesser known ride took place for a similar reason. British troops were again advancing! This time a much longer ride took place in Connecticut, near the New York border. The rider was a very courageous 16 year old girl named Sybil Ludington, daughter of the commander of the local militia. The British were marching toward the town of Danbury, Connecticut intent on destroying the supply depot there. Unfortunately, before Commander Ludington had received this news, he had granted the local militia regiment a brief furlough. Primarily farmers, they were glad for the opportunity to get their spring planting done. Sybil's father knew that it was vital to try to immediately contact his 400 men and urge them to return to duty as fast as possible! Night was falling as Sybil mounted her horse. She had volunteered to help rouse the men and announce her father’s order. They all must immediately return to duty. Alone and armed only with a stick to bang on doors, Sybil galloped 40 miles taking the backroads that she knew very well. In spite of rain, she managed to muster just about all the total regiment. Her ride took most of the night. (Paul Revere's ride had only lasted about 20 minutes) Soaking wet, she arrived home safely, just as dawn was breaking.



The story goes that the ensuing battle did not save Danbury from damage but the following day, the local militia led by Sybil's father joined forces with the Continental Army and succeeded in driving the British troops back across the border into New York. The British

governor of New York was forced to flee to offshore ships for protection. The enemy's advance deeper into the local area had successfully halted.

After hearing of Sybil's ride, George Washington personally thanked and praised her for her brave deed. Due to this successful route, the local militia was able to recruit a great many more volunteers to their ranks. Many more residents joined the Continental Army of Reserves after the British sailed away.

Sybil's heroic feat was largely forgotten. She just went on with her life, living to a ripe old age. No poet was known to have been inspired to write about her 40-mile ride alone in the rain. However, many years later, a great nephew wrote an account of her ride that attracted some notice among the local residents. Some older townsfolk recalled hearing of Sybil's midnight ride. Many years later, a set of historical markers was erected along her most likely route. The statue pictured above was placed in the small town of Carmel, New York. In 1975, she was honored on a US Bicentennial stamp. A 50K run has been held to highlight her approximate route.

www.smithsonianmag.com
www.womenhistoryblog.com

Pat Camarena

November Birthdays



Mattie Alpert	Nov 1
Sandra Martino	Nov 5
Alicia Hetman	Nov 7
Sherry Bridygham	Nov 8
Anna Yang	Nov 19
Roli Wendorf	Nov 19
Kathleen Cha	Nov 22
Rosaura Valle	Nov 28
Kelly Joseph	Nov 29
Beth Wells	Nov 30

AAUWSF Board

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Tech Trek Coordinator

Elaine Butler

**Tech Trek Alumnae Group
(TTAG) Coordinator**

Rosaura Valle

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
(DEI) Coordinator**

Kelly Joseph

We are continually faced by great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems.

Lee Iacocca

Avanti Editor

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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



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.