

Month at a Glance

Dec 4, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

TTAG Visit to the Exploratorium

- Who: TTAG (8th to 12th grade)
- Where: Exploratorium - Pier 15 - Embarcadero, San Francisco

Dec 7, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

Dec 10, 12:00 p.m.

Holiday Luncheon

- Location: Mission Rock Resort
- Address: 817 Terry A Francois Street, San Francisco
- RSVP: Mary Renner

Dec 15, 7:30 p.m.

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: [A Highland Christmas](#) by MC Beaton
- Discussion Leader: Pat Camarena
- RSVP: Elaine Butler

Dec 16, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: [Empire of Paint - The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty](#)
- RSVP: Michelle Mammini

Dec 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 December because of holiday festivities. We will start in January 2023. Email Mary Suter if there are any questions

International Book Group

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on January 16, 2023.

Happy Holidays!



Co-President Message

I hope everyone had a joyous Thanksgiving. It came and went so quickly, and now we are getting ready for December festivities. As you all have heard, we are finally having an IN-PERSON holiday lunch at Mission Rock Resort on December 10 at noon. The lunch will be outside on the deck with heaters. Please contact Mary Renner for details.

It's been a long time since we have met in person. I know it may still sound scary to some, and I respect that. Our calendar this month is light because of upcoming holiday festivities. I hope all of you will be able to celebrate the season in a way that feels right for you.

On a personal note, I just returned from a trip to Vietnam and Cambodian finally got Covid. I'm on the mend, and will be out and about very soon.



Best holiday wishes to all—
Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Tech Trek

The news is in and there will be virtual and residential camps in the summer of 2023. San Francisco Branch has requested 15 girls for the residential camps. The camps that we requested are at CSU Sonoma, UC Davis and CSU Fresno. The AAUW CA Tech Trek Committee will let us know soon if our request can be granted. There will be no camps at Stanford again this year. Hopefully AAUW Tech Trek can return to Stanford in the future. They are talking with UC Santa Cruz, CSU Monterey Bay and Santa Clara University for possible availability in the future.

We will be celebrating 25 years of Tech Trek in 2023. Suggestions are needed for how we will celebrate this wonderful program at the San Francisco Branch.

Elaine Butler

Gov Trek

Gov Trek is an exciting new AAUW California offering to encourage young women who are currently juniors or seniors in high school to get inspired to run for public office or seek careers in public service. Starting in January 2023, this online, virtual program will run on five Saturdays for two hours each and conclude in late March 2023. It is a great program for those interested in issues of social justice. It will provide valuable leadership training and campaigning skills, and look good on a college application.

What does our branch need to do to bring this program to our community? To participate, we need to advertise the program at local high schools so that the students learn about it and apply. The deadline to submit online applications is January 14, 2023. There isn't much time! However, we do not need to select students. Acceptance will be on a first-come-first-serve basis, until all of the 150 open positions are filled.

Advertising materials – posters and social media posts - have already been created by AAUW California and are ready for use. What we need is an individual to lead this effort for our branch and reach out to some local high schools. If we can get even 2-3 students to register for this program, that would be great!

You can find out much more information about this program on the AAUW California website at these links:

- [Link for students](#)
- [Link for branch members](#) (includes posters and advertising material, etc)

There is also a recording of a recent Gov Trek webinar available [HERE](#).

Note that there is also an opportunity to volunteer for this program as virtual coaches. The girls will be organized

in teams of 8. Each of these teams will work in a breakout room and there is a need for coaches to help in each breakout room. No prior experience or expertise is needed. Training for coaches will be provided, and coaches can volunteer either for a particular Saturday or all 5 Saturdays depending on their availability. If you are interested in volunteering, check out the volunteer information at this link.

Roli Wendorf

Astronomer Extrordinaire



While studying astronomy at Georgetown in the 1950s, Vera Rubin, a young mom, was also juggling childcare issues similar to those facing women today. Her goal was to study how entire galaxies were spinning. Some years later, she would become the first woman to legally be allowed to use the telescopes at the Palomar Observatory in California. It puzzled her that the galaxies that she wished to study were spinning very rapidly as if something more massive but invisible was holding them together. Her research demonstrated that every galaxy is surrounded by a huge halo of energy. Her work convinced the astronomy world beyond a doubt that dark matter really exists and deserves much more study.

Fifty years later, we still have much to learn about what dark matter actually is. Vera's achievements continue to inspire women across the world to enter the field of astronomy. Her discovery of galaxy rotation rates turned the world of science on its head.

Vera Rubin received many scientific awards due to her painstaking research of spiral galaxies. She was a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences but she never got her Nobel.

With Vera in mind, in June of 2019, the renaming of an observatory with a large synoptic survey telescope was initiated by two influential women: Eddie Bernice Johnson, a member of the House of Representatives from Texas, and Jennifer Aydin Gonzalez Colon, a Puerto Rican politician who currently serves as the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico. Currently under construction on the coast of Northern Chile is the Vera C. Rubin Observatory. Financial support came from both the public and private sectors but includes the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation. Long in the planning stages, site construction actually began in 2015 and is nearing completion. Next year, data collection from the huge telescope (actually the largest digital camera ever built) should begin and hopefully become fully public.

in 2025. Helen's research and that of other astronomers who have followed in her footsteps will move a giant step forward.



HAPPY
holidays



www.physicsworld.com

www.scientificwomen.net

www.smithsonianmag.com

Pat Camarena

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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

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 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.