



AVANTI

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January 2022

Month at a Glance

Jan 4, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting

Jan 9, 7:00 p.m.

AAUW Board Meeting

Jan 16, 7:00 p.m.

International Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: Five Decembers by James Kestrel
- Zoom Coordinator: Barbara Spencer
- RSVP: Barbara Spencer

Jan 18, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch

- Where: Toast Eatery (Outside Dining)
160 West Portal Ave (Middle of Block)
- Time: January 18th, 2023, at NOON
- RSVP: Mary Suter

Jan 20, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: True Biz by Sara Novic
- RSVP: Michelle Mammini

Jan 26, 7:30 p.m.

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb
- Discussion Leader: Susan Schwartz
- RSVP: Elaine Butler

Jan 26, 7:00 p.m.

TTAG Financial Aid Workshop – via ZOOM

- RSVP: Rosaura Valle

Co-President Message

Happy Holidays!

This year has been full of surprises and challenges.

As some of you know I switched jobs which I would have thought absurd a year ago. I'm loving my work at the ACLU of Northern California.

My health has been challenging these last few months and now I'm battling pneumonia!

My wish for the New Year is to be closer to my family and friends and that we all have great health. I also want to travel more. These shutdowns were necessary and I'm ready to see the world again!

I hope to see more of you as we offer more in-person events.

For our DEI group we will read a book in the new year followed by film discussion groups. The book is The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson. It's available on Thriftbooks.com, SecondSale.com, Chirp.com, and Amazon.com and your local library. I'll send an invitation to the Zoom meeting for February 5.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!

Have a wonderful New Year!

Kelly Joseph, Co-President

Happy New Year!

We have high hopes for 2023. There will be residential Tech Trek camps as well as virtual ones this year. We are gearing up for the Tech Trek process of nominating and selecting our campers. If you have any contacts with middle school math or science teachers, please let Elaine Butler know. Also, please contact Elaine if you would like to help with Tech Trek. It's very rewarding.

Now that residential camps are back in the picture for Tech Trek, we will need donations to fund our campers. Checks should be made out to AAUW CA SPF with Tech Trek noted in the line item. I submit the checks to the various camp treasurers, so you may send checks to me or to the branch P.O. Box.

Kudos to Mary Renner, our membership VP, for organizing and distributing the branch membership directory. She is also a whiz at contacting our new members and connecting with them. We would like to get all of our new members involved in some branch activity. A good way to learn about branch activities is to attend a board meeting. We are still meeting virtually, and the next board meeting is Monday, January 9 at 7 pm. Please let me know if you would like a zoom invitation.

Our holiday lunch at Mission Rock Resort was very festive despite the small number of attendees. The balcony and space heaters made for a fun and safe Event.

Here's hoping circumstances permit more in-person activities in 2023. Let's all stay well!

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Tech Trek

Martha and Diane Tech Trek directors at Sonoma and Davis camps expressed concerns that the AAUW Branches have requested 148 spots for campers. This is not possible at the moment. Is there anything we can all do to remedy this situation? A few of us are exploring the option of a second week of camp at Sonoma State University and possibly a week at Stanford if space is still available.

However, the location would be just part of the solution. A major issue is having staff for the camps – camp directors-in-training, dorm moms, workshop presenters, core

class teachers, camp nurses/doctors/health aids, and other volunteers. That's where you come in.

It truly takes a village to make Tech Trek possible. We need your help to even consider adding the 2nd Sonoma State and/or a Stanford camp. For AAUW CA to provide camps to meet the growing interest in Tech Trek, we need women to assume the roles that make camp possible.

Are you or do you know other members who might be willing to step up? Please get the word out that unless we have volunteers to pitch in, we cannot consider trying to accommodate all, or even more, of the 2023 requests.

We can't help but think of the girls who will not be able to have the on-campus Tech Trek experience if we don't have volunteers to sustain the program in 2023 and beyond. Anyone interested in helping should send us an email at your/their earliest convenience. Our committee plans to meet on December 28th to discuss what might be possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this request from two of our camp directors. Leave me a message or email if you can help. We can look at camp dates and job descriptions,

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator SF Branch

TTAG Goes to the Exploratorium



The visit of the hands-on science and discovery Exploratorium on Pier 15 was packed with activities. Eight Tech Trek Alumnae, who attended Tech Trek during the summer, Callista, Ellen, Evan, Hailey, Ila, Jessica, Sidney and Wryan participated in the

Sunday December 4 visit and were accompanied by AAUW-SF members Mary Renner and Aisha Sawatsly.

There was a 30 min tour of the Biology Lab led by Staff Educator Hilleary Osheroff, followed by a 30 min tour of the exhibit development shop with engineer Gaia Li. Then the students attended a 40 min lecture with three scientists from Felix Biotechnology, a local biotech working on phage biotechnologies, which also included presentations of scientist journeys. Finally a 20 min hands-on activity involving viscous fluids and slo-mo cameras with biophysicist Ailey Crow topped the afternoon program, prior to releasing the participants for a free visit of the museum.

Most students liked the tour of the biology lab the most, and a survey is ongoing to better capture the success of the event. Exploratorium volunteers Felicia Ranelus, Taylor Lacey, Wenshi Tan, and Ailey Crow were around to make all this possible.

We are grateful to Deirdre Araujo, AAUW-SF past President and Director of Volunteer Engagement at the Exploratorium, for arranging such an exceptional behind the scene visit of this wondrous museum.



Photo Credit: Deirdre Araujo - DA 1 and DA4

Rosaura Valle, AAUW SF Secretary

Elections Finally Over – How'd We Do in '22?

The election is finally over! In addition to an end to the non-stop requests for donations, AAUW members can be pretty happy with the results. Here are a few highlights:

- 1 woman each was added to the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate, bringing the numbers to 124 (H) and 25 (S)
- Of the total of 149, 54 are women of color
- We lost the most powerful woman in government (Nancy Pelosi) but still have a woman on the Minority leadership team, Minority Whip Katherine Clark
- Governors of 12 states are now women
- 23% of all mayors across the nation are women, including our brand new and first female mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass
- 20 women won new seats in the California Legislature and 30 female incumbents were re-elected, bringing the total to 50 – but still just 42%
- All executive positions in California except Governor are filled by women, including Secretary of State, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Controller, as well as the Senate Pro Tem
- Proposition 1 prevailed and women's right to control their own reproductive choices is now enshrined in our constitution.

And here are some fun facts:

- Only 3.2% of all members of Congress to date have been women
- California has sent more women to Congress than any other state – a total of 47 to date
- Vermont is the only state that has never sent a woman to either the House or the Senate

The State Public Policy committee thanks each and every AAUW California member who voted, who assisted in our Voter Education (VE) campaign by spreading our messages on social media, who took the pledge to vote for Prop 1 (we had 437 sign up!) and who worked within their branches to do their own VE events.

For a more detailed analysis of the election results, visit <https://www.aauw-ca.org/got-voter-fatigue/>

Kathi Harper, Public Policy Chair AAUW California

A Fearless Advocate for Change



If you saw the Oscar-nominated film, "Selma", a few years back, an actor played the part of Amelia Boynton Robinson. Let me tell you a bit more about this amazing lady. The real Amelia played a significant role in the marches over the Edmund Pettus Bridge with Dr. Martin Luther King in the spring of 1965. Her home in Selma, Alabama was the headquarters for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's planning committee where the march was organized. It was she, on behalf of the SCLC, who extended the invitation to Dr. King to attend. Some 600 protestors came to participate in the event which was to become known as "Bloody Sunday". Marchers, including Amelia, were attacked by policemen with tear gas and billy clubs. Seventeen were sent to the hospital. Amelia had been beaten unconscious. A photo of this scene, brutal as it was for Amelia and the others, was widely circulated world-wide. The events of that day played an important part in Lyndon Johnson's decision to sign the Voting Rights Act later that same year. Amelia was invited to witness this historic event as a guest of honor.

However, even before 1965, as a young Tuskegee graduate in home economics, Amelia had been an active advocate for the

betterment of the underserved rural poor of Alabama. As a child, Amelia had followed her mother around as she knocked on doors and sometimes even accompanied women to the polls to cast their votes. Following in her mother's footsteps, for more than thirty years Amelia, along with her husband, had traveled around the countryside organizing voter registration drives to inform people of color of their voting, property, and education rights. She used her skills as a home economics teacher to help as many people as possible to improve their lives. She even ran for Congress being the first African American Alabama woman to do so. Though she did not win, ten percent of the citizens voted for her.

Amelia lived to be 104 years old...long enough to attend the State of the Union address at the invitation of the incoming president Barack Obama. In her wheelchair, she also was present at the Edmund Pettus Bridge alongside the President to again cross the very same bridge to celebrate the Voting Rights Act 50 year Jubilee ceremony.

As Amelia has said, "A voteless people is a hopeless people".

After a private showing of the film "Selma" in her home in 2014, Amelia was heard to say that it was "fantastic".

The Edmund Pettus Bridge still continues to carry vehicles across the Alabama River. Built in 1940, it was originally named after a former Confederate brigadier general, U.S. senator, and state-level leader of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan. 25 years later, it became an enduring symbol of the civil rights movement. Last March, Vice-President Kamala Harris visited to commemorate the 57th year since "Bloody Sunday". In April, the Alabama Senate voted 23-3 for legislation that would change the official name to better honor those who were so unfairly treated there in 1965....

www.bustle.com

www.biography.com

www.alabamalegasy.org

Pat Camarena

Now Playing

Today we have three shows to think about, so I'll try to keep it brief.

Recently saw a brilliant, touching and incisive production of August Wilson's Two Trains Running, at Marin Theatre

Company. August Wilson is America's premier African-American playwright. He easily ranks in the top five playwrights of the 20th century. Note well that I'm not saying top five African-American, but top five of all American playwrights. Wilson died in 2005.

Almost all Wilson's plays are set in Pittsburgh's Hill District, where he grew up. Wilson's goal was to write a play for each decade of the 20th Century, representative of life in that decade. The plays weren't written in chronological order by decade, but rather as Wilson's muse dictated. In the course of doing so, the plays won just about every award the U.S. had to offer, including the Pulitzer, the Tony, New York Drama Critics Circle, American Theatre Critics, Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk, Olivier (England), and Wilson himself received the National Humanities Medal, and many more, too numerous to mention.

Two Trains Running is set in a small restaurant in Pittsburgh's Hill District. Like most of Wilson's plays it is an ensemble piece. Part of Wilson's 10 play cycle, it's set in the 1960's. The neighborhood is facing urban renewal, and the restaurant will soon be demolished. Beautifully directed by Dawn Monique Williams, the cast of six men and one woman, talk about their lives, their hopes, some large, some quite small. Memphis, the main character, owns the restaurant and is concerned about fair remuneration from the developers. Other characters include a man recently released from the penitentiary, the local numbers runner, the area funeral director, a slow witted man, and a local businessman. The conversations, the overall ambience, the physical appearance of the set -- all create the feeling that you are there, in that place, with those people. I think it's a part of Wilson's genius to be able to create this very real, very intimate sense of place. I told this to a friend who asked if I meant I was there being part of it, or there as an observer. To be perfectly clear, it is as an observer. It's like being the proverbial fly on the wall. Another point of interest is the use of mysticism, the influence of phantasmagoria. There are numerous references in the play to Aunt Esta, who is 322 years old. She is referenced in other Wilson plays as well. It becomes clear that "Aunt Esta" sounds a lot like "Ancestor" -- and Wilson expects the audience to get it. Part of what makes Wilson's work so great is the way the plays can seem to be related, in fact even perhaps having a common ancestor in Aunt Esta.

I'm not going into detail on actors, director, sets, lighting, etc. Suffice to say that everyone involved in this production did outstanding work -- it was a fitting tribute to Wilson's genius.

Marin Theatre Company

397 Miller Avenue,

Mill Valley, CA 94941-2885

Tickets: Box Office 415-388-5209

Online: <https://tickets.marintheatre.org>

Paula Campbell

Now Playing

Oh my, imagine a version of **Wuthering Heights** that's filled with humor, slapstick, original music and movement, and that leaves the audience chuckling as they leave. It's a Berkeley Rep co-production with National Theatre, Wise Children, Bristol Old Vic, and York Theatre Royal. Directed by Emma Rice, this innovative, unusual, and sometimes startling show, is delightful and a joy to sit through -- not what's usually said about this tragic story.

It takes a very special point of view to make **Wuthering Heights** lighthearted. And that starts in the very first scene. A man is walking on the moors in a fierce windstorm. So fierce is the wind that he is actually blown off his feet, and (grasping the side of a house with his arms at waist height), becomes horizontal in the air. This is accomplished by having another actor pick the man up by his legs and feet, and hold his body up horizontal to his arms and hands, which grasp the house. The wind may be fierce, but the dogs attacking him are even worse. The dogs, made of PVC piping, have open and closable fierce mouths, controlled by the actor who holds the long of pipes they are attached to. This is a rollicking production. Many characters die, including infants and children. With each death, the name of the deceased is written on a chalkboard, and carried across the stage for the audience to see. When many deaths occur at the same time, there is a processional of actors with chalkboards. The house itself is mostly a large flat piece with an entry door and two windows. An actor enters it through the door. The piece can be reversed, so we see it from the inside, which provides a doorway for actors who are exiting the house.

The play itself is a series of scenes, many filled with music and movement which is sometimes dance, often more like stage movement. It's innovative and fascinating to watch. It's also filled with emotion – lost love, deceived lovers, clearly no one's life will come to a happy ending.

The program calls Wuthering Heights "an intoxicating revenge tragedy for today." Thinking that over the day after seeing it, I'm not so sure I'd call it a revenge tragedy – a term usually applied to the plays of Marlowe and Webster and the like. On the other hand, why not!

Whatever it's called, it's great fun to see – a terrific way to spend a few hours. Plus some of the stage effects keep popping up in my mind – and to my amazement cause me to chuckle yet again.

Berkeley Rep.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley CA
 Box office: 510 647-2949 Online <http://www.berkeleyrep.org>

Paula Campbell

Playing Now

Just got back from seeing Beetlejuice at the Golden Gate Theatre. I'm not going to review it – just give you some advice – if you're over 10 years old **DON'T GO !!!** The show is beyond awful, and the music is too loud for the audience to be able to sleep through it.

FYI – a sign of what's wrong with the show – the actress who plays the leading lady announces with pride in her program bio "incredibly excited to be making (her) professional debut – (she) recently graduated high school.

Here's what The **NYP** said: 'Beetlejuice' review: Musical is a coke-snorting, F- bombing disaster.

And **The New York Times**: Invisibility (a problem cited in the show) is definitely not among this show's problems; overcompensating from the fear that it might lose an audience with a limited attention span is... this show so overstuffs itself with gags, one-liners and visual diversions that you shut down from sensory overload... The sum effect suggests Disney World's Haunted Mansion ride ... The industrious cast keeps spitting out spoken and sung jokes — good, bad and boring... Here, everybody, including every member of the supporting cast, has already gone so far over the top that there's no room

for comic contrast. The disheartening moral of "Beetlejuice" is that when anything goes, nothing much registers in the end.

Paula Campbell

January Birthdays



Wanda Holland Greene

Jan 8

Jean Feeney

Jan 10

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aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

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When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened.



Alexander Graham Bell

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.