



empowering women since 1881

AVANTI

sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net

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February 2023

Month at a Glance

Feb 1, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting - via ZOOM

Feb 11, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

San Francisco Summer Resource Fair for Middle Schools

We are tabling for Tech Trek!

- Where: County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park, 1199 9th Avenue

Feb 15

Deadline for TTAG Scholarship

Feb 15, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch

- Where: Golf Course Dining-Cypress Grill Harding Park Golf Course
99 Harding Rd., Sf 94132
(415) 665-4690
- RSVP: Mary Suter

Feb 17, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: The Library Book by Susan Orlean
- RSVP: Michelle Mammini

Feb 18, 7:00 p.m.

AAUW Board Meeting

Feb 20, 7:00 p.m.

International Book Group – via ZOOM and IN PERSON

- Book: The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria C. Murray
- Zoom Coordinator/RSVP: Nancy Shapiro
- Where: 1683 42nd Avenue

Feb 23, 7:30 p.m.

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: The Beekeeper of Singer: Rescuing Stolen Women of Iraq by Dunya Mikhail
- Reviewer/RSVP: Elaine Butler
- We welcome new members!

Co-President Message



February is Black History Month

For those of you who participated in our DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) program and read Isabel Wilkerson’s eye-opening book “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents,” there is an opportunity to hear her speak in person. She will be appearing at City Arts Lectures on Friday, February 17, at 7:30pm. Check the website at www.cityarts.net for ticket information.

The state AAUW website has an excellent discussion of Black women’s contribution to history, thought, society, innovation, science, government, and civil rights at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/?s=Black+history+>. Among the women mentioned are Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin, Dorothy Jean Dandridge, Katherine Johnson, Madam C.J. Walker, Shirley Chisholm, Mae Jamison, Toni Morrison, and Oprah Winfrey. See the state website if you are unfamiliar with their accomplishments.

The National Museum of African History and Culture also has a wealth of information about Black History Month. See the website at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/about/.news/kick-2023-programming-national-museum-african-american-history-and-culture-celebrating>.

Leadership

Our branch is in dire need of members to assume leadership positions. Most offices may be shared as Kelly and I are doing with the presidency. Kelly has taken a new job with ACLU and needs to reduce her AAUW activities. She will still chair the DEI committee but would like someone else to take over as branch co-president. We also need someone to work with Corrine to learn the job of branch treasurer. Please say yes if you are asked to help. We want to keep our branch going, but we need more help.

Future Dates

In recognition of March Women's History Month, our Interbranch Council will present a zoom talk on March 5 at 4 pm by Preethi Fernando on Amazing Women of our Time. More information will be provided later.

Also, keep in mind the California AAUW Annual Event on zoom on April 22.

Wishing health and happiness to all,

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Tech Trek

The California Tech Trek Director notified us that we have been allotted 10 spaces at residential camps and more if requested at the Virtual Camp. We had requested 15 spaces.

We are awaiting teacher nominations from 7th grade science and math teachers. If you have a Tech Trek Alumna in your home, have them encourage their past teacher to make nominations. The nomination form has been sent to science teachers in SFUSD schools. Private schools are encouraged to nominate as well.

We need volunteers to help with interviews at the Junior League Office on March 18 and 19. Please let me know if you have time for a 3 hour shift on either of these days.

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator SF Branch

Tech Trek Donations December 2022

Connie Armitage,

Thank you so much for your generous donation!

We Want Your Feedback!

On Thursday January 19th, Gloria Blackwell, AAUW's Chief Executive Officer, sent an email entitled "Mission & Action: Starting Strong in 2023." She announced an open comment on the proposed bylaws and public policy priorities.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE
HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO
FEBRUARY 3RD AT 5 PM ET.**

You have until Friday, ~~January 27th~~ February 3rd at 5 pm ET to comment before the proposal is put up for a vote this spring. The changes proposed are significant, and I want to be sure you take this opportunity to comment to the national board before they post the proposal for a vote.

Some of the Changes being proposed include:

- Revising the wording describing AAUW's charitable purpose.
- Eliminating the requirement for 60 days' notice before board approval of a dues change.
- Having board officers elected by the board, not the membership.
- Eliminating any reference to conventions when discussing meetings of the membership.

**Please make
your voice
heard:**



- Take a moment to read the bylaws change and the brief rationale for each change [HERE](#). Send your feedback by clicking "Comment on Proposed Bylaws Changes."

- Review the Public Policy Priorities and send your feedback to National by clicking [HERE](#).
- Check your email address in the [Community Hub](#) to be sure it's correct so you will receive election information.
- VOTE! The voting period runs April 5th - May 15th. Online voting is encouraged.

Thank you for bringing California to the table!

A Fearless Advocate for Change



During the last quarter of the 1800s, the Industrial Age, there was explosive economic and industrial growth in the United States. Many families such as the Vanderbuilts and the Carnegies, who were in the right place at the right time, amassed outrageous fortunes. Fashion reflected this time in society and its norms. Women's clothing became grander. Rich men liked their wives to dress to reflect their new social status. Magazines such as Vogue displayed pictures of "over the top" costumes including very ornamental hats. Hats began to be decorated with bird plumes, sometimes with an entire bird. As this new fashion caught on, it generated a new occupation: plume hunters. As time went on, a lucrative feather trade drove many bird species close to extinction. Unscrupulous and anxious for a fast and relatively easy way to make a living, plume hunters, here and abroad, began to track down easy to catch shore birds in breeding plumage such as crane, herons, or egrets. Nestlings were left to starve to death or be picked off by predators. Not stopping there, soon other birds were scooped up from trees and their flight feathers picked off. The Gilded Age, as this time period was called, was devastating to bird

populations worldwide Try to imagine a hat with 3,000 Brazilian hummingbirds atop it!

Onto this scene came Harriet Hemenway who was born into one of the upper class abolitionist families in the Boston area. An outdoor girl, she loved to go bird watching wearing what we now call "sneakers", highly unfashionable at that time but which suited her needs. After reading an article published by the New York Zoological Society in the 1890s, she and her cousin, Minna Hall, using the social Blue Book, began to host tea parties in private homes of influential friends and acquaintances. (It was hard for women to try to rent a public meeting place without needing a male sponsor). A strategic plan was developed to persuade hundreds of their influential friends to boycott feathered hats. As the movement grew, this worthy cause caught the attention of male bird experts, men in the millinery industry, and other male conservationists. Their backing led to the formation of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Men were usually chosen to head most of the groups to add more credence. Different chapters around the state held fundraisers and lecture tours to raise awareness of the problem. The National Audubon Society we know of today developed from this humble beginning. Eventually Congress passed the Lacey Act in 1900. President Teddy Roosevelt named Pelican Island in Florida as the first Federal Bird Reservation in 1903. Now there is a nationwide wildlife refuge system to protect birds and their habitats.

Hats off to Harriet Hemenway for leading the way in her efforts to affect change starting at the "grass roots" level. Birds are still having a tough time among us humans. However, at least attitudes, some laws, and clothing styles have changed. Now climate change is a bigger challenge to be overcome starting at the "grass roots".

www.fws.gov

www.smithsonianmag.com

www.americacomesalive.com

Pat Camarena

Playing Now *Dear Evan Hansen* Paula Campell

Don't miss [Dear Evan Hansen](#), now playing at SF's Orpheum Theatre. [Evan Hansen](#) won 6 Tony awards in New York, including Best Musical. It originally opened at a small theatre in NY, then was such a smash it was moved to a large house, where it had a long run. I've been waiting impatiently for it to come here.

Let me tell you about it. Its structure is a bit unusual – it’s a serious play – very serious – with music. Not any huge flashy musical numbers, just characters who occasionally break into song to amplify what they’re experiencing.

I think once you know the story itself, you’ll know what I mean.

Evan Hansen is a high school student. He’s unhappy, feels unloved, and is a bit of a pariah. His father abandoned the family years ago – his mother works long hours to earn enough to keep food on the table. Evan has no friends. He is sometimes a target of the class bully, who physically mistreats him. When the show opens, Evan has a cast on one arm – he fell off a tree he was climbing. Not one of his classmates is willing to sign his cast -- the bully actually knocks him to the ground when he asks. Evan’s psychiatrist suggest Evan write a letter to himself, in which he fantasies about what his life could be, what he wishes it were, what he would like it to be. Evan does this, and takes the letter out with him. The class bully sees Evan reading the letter, grabs it, reads it, and put it in with his school stuff. He also offers to sign Evan’s cast -- writing his name in such huge letters that there’s no room for anyone else to sign. The bully is clearly having a breakdown, and shortly after this he kills himself. His parents, trying to find a reason for his suicide search through his school papers, and find the letter, signed by the bully. Their assumption is that their son and Evan were secret friends, and they tell this to everyone. According to the letter, their son and Evan were close buddies, who did many, many things together, including spending time at an apple orchard, which is where Evan broke his arm.

Evan never corrects this total misunderstanding. His classmates begin to admire him, (after all, he tamed the school bully), the dead boy’s parents bring him into their home to talk to him about this new picture of their boy – a good kid they never knew existed.

Evan’s life does a 180 degree turn around. He’s popular, he’s admired, he’s elected President of a new student organization formed to honor the memory of the bully. The dead boy’s parents invite Evan to have his meals with them, to spend the nights at their house – Evan has found the happy family he always longed for. He ignores his mother, speaks meanly to her – she’s his old unhappy life – now he has something better.

Of course, this can’t last – one of the few kids that befriended Evan at all realizes that it’s all a fraud. The bully didn’t write the letter -- Evan did. Eventually Evan realizes that he can’t keep up his deception – he confesses that he wrote the letter,

and never expected what would happen when he says the bully wrote it.

I kept waiting to see what would happen -- how Evan would be punished, disgraced, maybe even the police might get involved. (There was some fundraising involved with the student organization.) But none of that happens. Evan confesses, explains that once the story started everyone was happy – even the dead boy’s parents. He didn’t know how to stop what he’d started. He’d made everyone feel good – he’s gotten good friends for himself – but now it was all gone, and he was mired in regret.

Now imagine that story with actors breaking into song, even maybe dancing a bit.

The whole thing is mind boggling, but brilliant.

Dear Evan Hansen is unique, beautifully performed, and a rare theatre experience.

It took three years for the show to come to SF—it was worth waiting for. DON’T MISS IT !!!.

Orpheum

Dear Evan Hansen, through Feb. Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market Street,
Tickets: Online box office www.shnsf.com Phone 888-746-1799
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat at 7:30pm, Wed, Sat, Sun at 1pm

Paula Campbell

February Birthdays



Corrine Sacks

Feb 25

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The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.



Jane Addams

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.