



# AVANTI

empowering women since 1881

sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net

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

March 2023

## Month at a Glance

### **March 1, 7:30 p.m.**

TTAG Committee Meeting - via ZOOM

- Contact: Rosaura Valle

### **March 5, 4:00 p.m.**

Women's History Event - via ZOOM

- link will be sent out a few days in advance
- Contact: Barbara Spencer

### **March 13, 7:00 p.m.**

Board Meeting

### **March 13, 1:30 p.m.**

Friday Afternoon Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
- RSVP: Michelle Mammini

### **March 15, 12:00 p.m.**

Lunch Bunch

- Where: Dragon Beaux Dim Sum  
5700 Geary Blvd. (Richmond District)
- RSVP: Mary Suter

### **March 18, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. AND March 19, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Tech Trek Interviews

- Where: Junior League on Fillmore
- Contact: Elaine Butler

### **March 20, 7:00 p.m.**

International Book Group – via ZOOM and IN PERSON

- Book: Rules of Civility by Amor Towles
- Zoom Coordinator/RSVP: Nancy Shapiro
- Where: 1683 42nd Avenue
  - We will meet in person at Nancy's and also by Zoom

### **March 23, 7:30 p.m.**

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: The It Girl by Ruth Ware
- Reviewer: Joanne Mandel
- RSVP: Elaine Butler
- We welcome new members!

## Co-President Message

Welcome to March Madness!

Our Tech Trek committee is busy at work getting nominations from the middle schools. We'll interview and make camp decisions later this month. A big shout out to Leslie Yuan and Elain Butler for working through technological issues to create a good experience for the recommending teachers and the applicants.

We are starting off women's history month in style. President Joe Biden announced today he was nominating Julie Su to be the next secretary of the Department of Labor. Su would be the first secretary-level Asian American to serve in Biden's Cabinet. Su previously was head of California's labor department.

Take a look at this YouTube video of the National Museum of African American History and Culture and NASA, "A Space For Us All".

[NASA: A Space for Us All - YouTube](#)

I love when my passion for AAUW intersects with my work at ACLU of Northern California. Please read the recent victory of renaming Sq\_\_\_ Valley:

[VICTORY: Sq\\_\\_\\_ Valley, Fresno Officially Renamed Yokuts Valley | ACLU of Northern CA \(aclunc.org\)](#)

Take a look at these short clips on the history behind Women's History Month:

[The history behind Women's History Month - YouTube](#)

[What is Women's history month?/History behind women's history month/Women's history month 2023 facts - YouTube](#)

AAUW-SF is seeking a Treasurer. This is a great way to learn about our branch with minimal, yet impactful commitment. Training will be provided. Contact Barbara Spencer or myself to volunteer.

I'm excited to watch women's and men's basketball this month during March Madness. March Madness takes 68 teams down to a final champion. I relate it to our Tech Trek selection process.

We've enjoyed the Bay Area snow and I hope you are staying safe and warm.

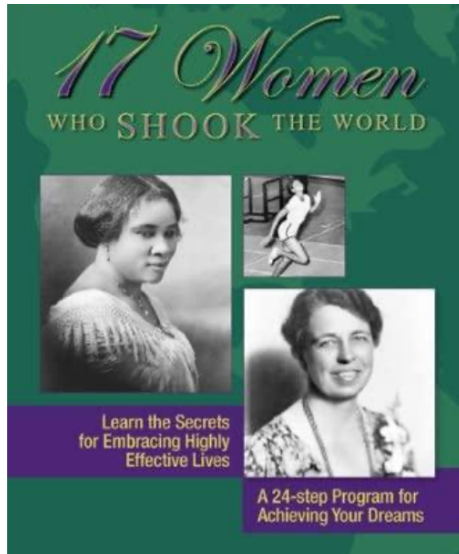
Don't forget to celebrate yourself and women in your family this month as we all have a HerStory to share.

Best regards,

**Kelly Joseph, AAUW-SF Co-President**

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**Women's History Event  
Sunday, March 5 at 4 PM**



To celebrate Women's History Month, our Interbranch Council is sponsoring a Zoom presentation by Preethi Fernando, a former AAUW fellowship recipient for a project in her native Sri Lanka. Preethi will tell us about her recent book, "17 Women Who Shook the World.," and how she came to write it. Preethi struggled and encountered setbacks in her path, as many women do. What helped her was reading about inspirational women, which led to this book. Some of the women featured are Wilma Rudolph, Eleanor Roosevelt, Marie Curie, and Mother Theresa.

The Zoom link will be emailed to all members a few days before March 5. Please watch for it and join us for what promises to be an inspirational event.

**Spam Emails**

A number of members have occasionally received emails purporting to be from me and asking for the purchase of gift cards. Neither I nor any other board member will ask any member to purchase a gift card. If you receive such an email just delete it.

Wishing health and happiness to all,

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

**Tech Trek**

Tech Trek is moving quickly toward the time we make our choice of campers. Leslie Yuan has sent out the links to the online applications. The next step is interviewing the girls and their families. The dates for the interviews are March 18 Saturday and 19 Sunday. There will be two shifts, a morning shift and an afternoon shift each day. The Junior League is hosting us for the interviews once more. Thank you Michelle Tom for your help in making the contact. The location is 2226 Fillmore St. between Sacramento and Clay. We start at 10 am each day and end around 4 pm or earlier. We appreciate any time you can give us. We are looking for adult AAUW members and former campers to help. Please let me know what you would like to do. Either email me at [elainebutler124@comcast.net](mailto:elainebutler124@comcast.net) or call me at 415-305-2220.

Thank you so much for your support of this wonderful program,  
**Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator SF Branch**

**Tabling at Citywide Summer Resource Fair**

On Saturday, February 11, from 11:00am to 2:00pm, AAUW-SF hosted an exhibitor table at the 2023 San Francisco Summer Resource Fair at the SF County Fair Building. Mary Renner, Barbara Spencer, Elaine Butler and Susan Pollack staffed the table and were delighted with the many questions asked, interest shown and the number of contacts of potential schools and 7th graders interested in Tech Trak for the 2023 summer.

The fair itself was jammed with parents, students, organizations, and sponsors—with tables filling all available rooms. Much work following up will be required, but it is

hoped that many new school contacts will be made. Several of the co-exhibitors also expressed interest in forwarding information about Tech Trak to middle schools throughout the city with which they work. All in all, a most rewarding outing.



**Susan Pollack**

### Women's History Month

American author Ursula Le Guin once asked, "if we don't tell our truth, who will?"

In schools, less than 25% of historical figures studied are women. However, there is an endless amount of strong, impactful women in America, reaching back to the beginning of this nation. Jane Addams, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Billie Jean King, Greta Thuberg...

Every March, the United States celebrates Women's History Month, remembering the overlooked contributions of these heroes. It recognizes past accomplishments, but also serves as a reminder to push for gender equality now, and in the future. Women's history month emphasizes that women can make lasting changes and achieve their dreams, which serves as an inspiration to girls around the country. This year, the theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." This theme recognizes women who have played an active role in media and storytelling.

Be sure to participate in learning about and spreading the stories of our nation's female heroes!

[Source 1](#) [Source 2](#) [Source 3](#)

**Caitlin Dainas, Avanti Editor**

### The Best Evidence

Rosalind Franklin has been called the "Dark Lady of DNA" by her biographer, Brenda Maddox. In her lifetime, Rosalind was not a spy, nor was she an undercover agent. She was a physical chemist at Kings College in London.

She is known today as the woman behind the first-ever photograph of DNA in the 1950s. Born into a well-to do Jewish family, she showed an early aptitude for science. After she earned her doctorate, she began her research into coal and carbon and published several research papers. She was doing valuable work that she loved. While spending some time working in Paris, she developed additional skills as an X-ray crystallographer, learning to take three-dimensional images of molecular structures. Upon her return to England she was assigned to a team of four male scientists and some graduate students who were studying DNA. Her newly acquired skills as a crystallographer proved to be a great asset to the other researchers. One of the exceptional images taken under her supervision was of the DNA double helix as it splits. This photo was called Photo 51. Communication of her complete data findings with her colleagues often proved to be difficult for her. Not all of the other four men gave credence to the full extent of her findings until one of Rosalind's doctoral students brought the photo to their attention. Without her data and the Photo 51, the mystery of the two types of DNA would have taken much longer to figure out...Rosalind's contributions were given short shrift in subsequent published reports. By the time the men collected their shared Nobel Prize in 1962, beating out Linus Pauling, Rosalind had died of ovarian cancer at the age of 37. The Nobel Prize Committee was not in the habit of making posthumous nominations. She died with no sense of having been edged out of a world side honor.

In Rosalind's own words: "In my view, all that is necessary for faith is the belief that by doing our best, we shall succeed in our aims: the improvement of mankind."

To read more about Franklin's life, the Amazon.com website offers two biographies, one by Brenda Maddox, and another by Anne Sayre, a friend of Rosalind. There was also a play starring Nicole Kidman produced for the London stage about seven years ago.



[www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com)

[www.scientificwomen.net](http://www.scientificwomen.net)

[www.azquotes.com](http://www.azquotes.com)

[www.oregonstate.edu](http://www.oregonstate.edu)

Pat Camarena

### Playing Now

Just saw Clyde's at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Written by award winning, two time Pulitzer winner for drama, Black playwright Lynn Nottage, directed by the brilliant Taylor Reynolds, Clyde's, a co-production with Huntington Theatre Company, is a must see play. It's a moving, sometimes hilarious, sometimes super serious, play about a group of former convicts, working in a truck stop sandwich shop, owned by a woman who seems just this side of being a demon from hell. Okay – that sounds confusing --- well it is. But don't let it put you off – Clyde's characters are real. They are black people with bad backgrounds, struggling to keep their jobs, struggling to stay alive. And with the goal in mind of find the apotheosis of the perfect sandwich. The dialogue is fast paced, witty, cutting edge – never misses a beat. FYI – Clyde's was nominated for the Tony for best play in 2020.

Clyde's sandwich shop is a metaphor for life – the need to have some goal, some raison d'être – something that makes spending your life making sandwiches under the thumb of a vicious ruthless boss worthwhile. Their boss doesn't suggest or cajole – she threatens them, mocks them – do it her way or hit the road. But for the employees at Clyde's, that goal -- to make the perfect sandwich – the perfect combo of ingredients – breads, meats, cheeses, veggies, herbs, spices is all they can think about. It's what makes working in the shop bearable. The three men and one woman even seem to dream, literally think of sandwich making even in their sleep, of making that perfect sandwich. In the course of the play we learn their backgrounds, their mistakes, their need to achieve something real, something positive, something so good it will lift them above the humdrum of their lives. And then – lo and behold --- a local

newspaper, albeit a freebie handout paper, writes up the shop and the food – and praises the sandwiches to the heavens, using superlatives like “sublime” to describe them.

Clyde's is a short play, 90 minutes, with every second jam packed with feelings, with energy, with spirit that takes your breathe away. At the end, the characters rebel – fail to obey their heartless taskmaster – and achieve their dream – their sandwiches are sublime – and they have the printed paper to prove it.

#### Berkeley Rep.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley

Tickets: Box office: 510 647-2949 Online <http://www.berkeleyrep.org>

Tues – Sat 8pm, Sun 7pm, Sat., Sun, 2pm.

I also saw a couple of shows that I don't recommend. I had high hopes for Mean Girls. How could anything written by Tina Fey not shine? The answer is sadly all too clear – aim it at an audience of high school girls. Okay – we all know that teenage girls can be cruel – mean and heartless. But 2 ½ hours of that can get exhausting. We also know that good will prevail and there's going to be a happy ending – but really – in the context of this show – who cares? On the plus side, there's a lot of good music sung by actors with great voices, very spirited choreography, and wonderful use of color in both the costumes and sets. The colors are all neon – shiny, bright, a treat for the eyes. And of course a good reflection of how the characters think and feel – everything exaggerated – everything in NEON.

Also just saw SIX. It is a rock musical. The six are the six wives of Henry VIII, remarkably resurrected in spangled, shiny, tight, skimpy, sexy, (make that super sexy) clothes. The shoes alone should be nominated for an award – impossible heels, super tight, tight fitting boots – the cast should get battle pay for having to dance in them.

There was an interesting phenomenon at the performance. Often, when a character stepped forward to sing – the audience roared, cheered, howled – as if the actor were a famous celebrity. But the actors were young, barely experienced, not one a name anyone would know. And not locals who might have friends in the audience. I rarely attend rock events – figure I need to preserve what's left of my hearing – so if this is some new rock thing I just may be ignorant of it. I found it difficult to sit through SIX – it was loud, loud, loud. The best thing about the show were the gorgeous costumes. Sometimes touring companies economize on sets and costumes – not this one! In fairness, I should also say that in 2020-01 SIX won 23 Broadway awards, including Best New Musical, and got a rave review in the SFChronicle. Quien sabes?

Paula Campbell

**March Birthdays**

Pat Camarena  
Anne Leung  
Sunny Holland

March 1  
March 2  
March 4

Aleksandra Olow  
Mary Renner  
Nancy Pelosi

March 5  
March 15  
March 26

**AAUWSF Board**

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*When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.*



*Malala Yousafzai*

**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 <https://sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net>



**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.