

Month at a Glance

July 5, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting

- Contact: Rosaura Valle rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com

July 17, 7:00 p.m.

International Book Group – via ZOOM and IN PERSON

- Book: Bombay Prince by Sujata Massey
- Location: 2901 Broderick St. 94123
- Hostess/RSVP: Mary Graves

July 19, 7:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch – IN PERSON

- Location: Spiazzo Restaurant, 33 West Portal Ave
- Hostess/RSVP: Mary Suter

July 21, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: The Piano Shop by Thad Carthart
- Location: Anni Puckett's home, 22 Hancock St.

July 22, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Board Planning Meeting

- RSVP: Barbara Spencer

July 27, 7:30 p.m.

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: Death in the East by Abir Mukherjee
- Reviewer: Roli Wendorf
- RSVP: Elaine Butler

All members welcomed any time!

Co-President Message



Greetings to all! I'm Roli Wendorf. I'll be serving as co-president of the branch this year along with Barbara Spencer. Kelly Joseph, who has ably served in this capacity for the past two years is taking on the branch treasurer role instead. Other elected branch officers remain the same – Rosaura Valle as secretary and Mary Renner as membership chair. We also have several appointed board members who take on a variety of responsibilities and keep our branch humming. We all look forward to a productive year for the branch.

I have been a member of the San Francisco branch for the past five years. My husband and I relocated to this area at that time from Westchester County, New York, to be closer to our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter. We were fortunate to be able to find a house across from them in Outer Sunset. For the past four years, I have served on the AAUW California state board as the Chief Financial Officer. I now look forward to my new role in this branch. My AAUW membership extends before my time in California. I was involved with AAUW Westchester

branch for 11 years in a variety of roles - co-president, funds chair, and programs chair. I was also New York State president for two years. I am a strong believer in AAUW's mission of gender equity.

My professional background is as an electrical engineer and computer scientist. I received my engineering degrees in India, where I grew up. I came to the US in 1979 for graduate school in computer science at Carnegie-Mellon. I worked as a researcher at Philips Electronics on projects such as streaming digital video and digital television, which were just being developed at that time. It was exciting work. I was always in a male dominated environment because of my field, and it made me very interested in getting more girls and women in these fields. That's what first attracted me to AAUW and why I joined. As I stayed at AAUW, I realized that in addition to STEM, it has many other worthwhile gender equity programs as well.

I am a strong supporter of our branch's Tech Trek and TTAG activities. For the past two years, I have been a coach for the Virtual Tech Trek camps, and plan to do so again this year. In addition, I enjoy attending the Mystery Adventure book group, and look forward to getting back to the monthly Lunch Bunch, which I haven't attended since Covid. I look forward to meeting many of you in person and on Zoom and getting to know you better.

Roli Wendorf, Co-President

Branch Annual Meeting



Celebrating Silver Jubilee recipients at the Branch Annual Meeting Brunch on June 10: Amy Nguyen and Alice Truong (center) with Daniela Sanchez and Sally Gaston (*Avanti, June 2023*)

Tech Trek

Our first set of Tech Trek campers returned from a week at Tech Trek at Fresno State on June 24. The August AVANTI will highlight their stay and activities. July will find 5 girls at Sonoma State for a week. The same week will find another 5 girls participating in the virtual camp from their homes. Watch the AVANTI for a Welcome Back Party for all members featuring all 3 Tech Trek Camps.

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator

Breakthroughs



From childhood, both of her parents encouraged Margarita's interest in all things scientific. She was born in Asturias, in northern Spain just prior to WWII. The war in Spain was winding down. Franco was coming into power. By the time she was sixteen she had moved to Madrid to begin the study of chemistry at the university. Influenced by inspirational professors, Margarita began to focus on the field of biochemistry. She became fascinated by molecular biology research. She eventually obtained her PhD. in 1963

Living things are made of chemicals just as non-living things are. A molecular biologist such as she had become studies how molecules interact with one another in living organisms to perform the functions of life. Margarita became fascinated by the possibilities of research in this expanding field. An opportunity came up for both her scientist husband Eladio Vinuela, and herself, to work in New York with other scientists. Upon their return to Spain, they established a laboratory to continue their research. Her husband began a different field of study in 1970, studying the African plague virus, so that Margarita would be recognised for the many discoveries she made due to her own efforts.

Margarita worked as a professor of molecular genetics for the rest of her professional life. Eventually she served as director of several biomedical research institutes. She also supervised dozens of doctoral students. She held many patents for her discoveries, published more than three hundred fifty publications in international books and magazines and presented papers at hundreds of conferences and seminars.

The patents relating to her discovery of phi29 and its uses has been hailed as a most significant scientific breakthrough. She invented a faster, simpler, and more reliable method to replicate trace amounts of DNA so the full genomic testing could be done even on small amounts of DNA.

A career as a molecular biologist also provides numerous job opportunities in private industry, universities, and government agencies today. The sciences of forensics, archaeology, and

oncology as well as law enforcement agencies have a great deal to thank Margarita for as her discoveries make their work yield more trustworthy results. She was the first scientific woman elected to the Royal Spanish Academy in 2001 and took up her seat in 2003. Five years later, she was raised into the Spanish nobility by King Juan Carlos I with the hereditary title of "Marquesa de Canero". Margarita Salas' lifetime achievements have made her a great scientific hero for our time.

www.nature.com

www.chemistryworld.com

www.nuevaalcarria.com

Pat Camarena

July Birthdays



Bickley Simpson

July 9

Sheila Bost

July 14

Elaine Butler

July 19

AAUWSF Board

Contact Us:
aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

Co-Presidents
Barbara Spencer
Roli Wendorf

Treasurer
Kelly Joseph

Secretary
Rosaura Valle

Membership Vice President
Mary Renner

Website
Roli Wendorf

Avanti Editors
Rosaura Valle and Caitlin Dainas

Silver Jubilee Fund Chair
Mary Suter

Voter Information
Sheila Bost

Tech Trek Coordinator
Elaine Butler
Leslie Yuan

Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) Coordinator
Rosaura Valle

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator:
Kelly Joseph

Ignore the glass ceiling and do your work. If you're focusing on the glass ceiling, focusing on what you don't have, focusing on the limitations, then you will be limited.



Ava DuVernay

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 <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.