



President's Message

Covid-19

How disappointing that we are still under Covid restrictions! I doubt that any of us thought we would still be confined to Zoom meetings. There are, however, some benefits to using Zoom. We have been able to meet with people who might otherwise have been unavailable because of

geographic distances. Indeed, our book discussion of *Caste* included people from other branches and added to the breadth of viewpoints. We were also able to have a very interesting Zoom discussion last summer with our past president Cathy Corcoran who now lives in Ireland.

Membership

Much of our Zoom planning meeting focused on ideas for increasing our branch membership. We will be revising our membership application form to make it more understandable, and we hope to develop a flyer for posting on social media. We will try to focus on the 55+ group nearing retirement, as well as on the "younger" group still in the workforce. The Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG), their parents, and our past Silver Jubilee scholarship recipients seem like natural prospects for a membership campaign. We can all begin by asking a friend or colleague to consider joining.

Women's Equality Day

Women's Equality Day was August 26. That date commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 giving women the right to vote. But voting was only the beginning of the march for women's equality. We still have far to go in closing the wage gap, and AAUW has been in the forefront of that battle for many years. Let's keep AAUW strong!

Barbara Spencer, Co-President



Eight months ago we were looking forward to 2021. Vaccines were on the horizon and we thought we were turning the corner in regaining our sense of normalcy. September is here and we have realized that a mask is our new accessory, like jewelry and shoes. So much for us seeing each other in person for events.

As a branch, we cannot forget that women's rights are challenged all over the world. Our work is far from done. I was disheartened in reading an article in the USA Today this weekend where an Afghanistan woman burned her university diploma in the oven, so her level of education couldn't be found.

September 21 is International Day of Peace. See <https://internationaldayofpeace.org/get-involved/>

Please continue to share the Work Smart online course information. I was counseling a person transitioning careers and was grateful to have this resource to provide. Here's the link: <https://aauw.org/resources/programs/salary/>

I hope you are staying physically and mentally active. I've increased my daily meditation practice to alleviate the stress of working from home, being

confined, and returning to hybrid work. There are great meditation apps, and some are at no cost. Barre, Zumba, HIIT, and my treadmill have kept me physically fit. It's important to move each day. Some of the best moments are when I put on a song and start dancing. Two minutes later the whole family is singing, laughing and dancing!

We will continue our "One Book, One Branch" in the upcoming weeks. I welcome your suggestions.

Please stay safe.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Kelly Joseph, Co-President

Board Meeting

There will be no board meeting in September.

Afternoons With Books

When: Friday, September 17, at 2:00 pm

Where: Anni Puckett's back yard

If smoke or weather are a concern, we will meet on Zoom. The location will be confirmed on the 16th.

What: We will be selecting the books to read for the following year.

Please email your selections to

Include a brief statement about the book. All recommendations should be readily available.

International Book Group

Date: Monday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Book/Author: The Night Watchman, by Louise Erdrich

Hostess/Zoom Coordinator: Barbara Spencer

Please RSVP to Barbara at

Mystery/Adventure

Our in person gathering has been postponed until COVID 19 and variants are under more control.

Virtual Planning Meeting

Date: September 21 at 7:00 PM. **SPECIAL TIME**

Location: Zoom

Host: Susan Peliks

RSVP: Susan at

Please email book recommendations to Susan prior to the meeting. Include title, author, availability and a short description

Lunch Bunch

We will not be meeting this month. Keep checking here. We hope to be able to get together again as soon as it is safe.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

We've worked hard for our Social Security and Medicare benefits. And together, our community fights EVERY single day to protect them. **The future of these critical programs shouldn't be up for negotiation. But right now, a bill called the TRUST Act would permit lawmakers to fast track a bill to cut Social Security & Medicare — with minimum transparency or voter oversight. This is OUTRAGEOUS.**

It's up to us to make sure Congress gets our message loud and clear. Tell Congress: Don't cut our Social Security and Medicare benefits — oppose the TRUST Act.

SEND A MESSAGE TODAY!!

RECIPIENTS:

- Your Senator
- Your Representative

Here is what your message needs to say:

Sample message:

I'm your constituent and an AARP member, and I'm asking you to **OPPOSE** the TRUST Act, which would put my hard-earned Social Security and Medicare benefits at the mercy of a fast-tracked, closed door committee.

The TRUST Act would establish small Rescue Committees to propose changes for Social Security and Medicare. If only seven members from the Rescue Committees approve bill language, it would be fast-tracked in the House and Senate, with no allowed amendments from the rest of Congress.

This is unacceptable and unfair to all Americans who pay into and count on these programs. Social Security is the largest source of retirement income for most Americans and provides nearly all income for one in four seniors. Across age groups and parties, the American public overwhelmingly supports Social Security. And Medicare guarantees Americans 65+ much-needed health coverage.

I expect my elected representatives to be careful stewards of these programs. People 50+ have faced enormous consequences from the global pandemic, and we will not tolerate any cuts to programs that are critical to our health and income. Please, oppose the TRUST Act and any legislation that could rob Americans of their hard-earned Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Signed:

[First Name] [Last Name]
[Your Address]

Pat Camarena



MAKING AN IMPACT

In 1979 a young woman journalist in New York City scored what she considered to be a plum interview with a classic American writer and well-known civil rights activist, namely James Baldwin.. The young interviewer was Sylvia Chase. Sylvia was part of an emerging group of female journalists making their way in what was formerly considered to be a male dominated industry. She hoped that Mr. Baldwin's views would be of great interest to American viewers. However, more than forty years would pass before any part of that recorded interview was aired. ABC management scrapped the entire interview after Mr. Baldwin's comments were deemed to be of little interest to 20/20 watchers.

Sylvia moved on to have a significant career in the broadcast industry. After graduating from UCLA, she honed her political skills by working for various Democratic legislators and managing political campaigns. Opportunities to work in radio and television followed. Moving to New York City, she became a CBS television correspondent covering women's issues before being promoted to a regular position on 60 Minutes. After transferring to ABC in the late 1970s, she held various positions including co-

anchor of ABC News Weekend Report. In the mid 1980s Sylvia moved west to San Francisco where she anchored local KRON news broadcasts. She could still be seen on 20/20 as well as PBS. Marin became her permanent home even after retirement

Over her long broadcasting career in an extremely competitive field, Silvia was known for her fairness, professionalism, and warmth. She took a deep interest in consumer issues, children's welfare, the women's movement, as well as many other workplace issues affecting women. Sylvia and other women like her helped to pry open the doors for a new generation of women reporters. Many accolades came her way including several Emmy awards for her 20/20 work and a Peabody for a documentary on homeless children in 1989. Three further Emmys were awarded to her for local news. In 1991 she received the Matrix Award from New York Women in Communications. Marin became her forever home even after retirement.

Just a few months ago, a newly discovered clip of Sylvia's long ago on-air conversation with James Baldwin surfaced. It can be accessed on YouTube for those of you who wish t hear Mr. Baldwin's opinions in light of our current social and political concerns. Food for thought?

www.openculture.com

www.nytimes.com/2021/06/30

www.nytimes.com/2019/01/07

September Birthdays

Barbara Spencer	September 11
Nora Lee	September 18
Mary Worth	September 18

Birthday Not Announced?

If your birthday is not here and you'd like to have it included (or corrected), contact the Membership VP.

AAUWSF Board

Contact us:

aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

Co-Presidents

Barbara Spencer
Kelly Joseph

Treasurer

Corrine Sacks

Secretary

Rosaura Valle

Nomination

Kelly Joseph

Membership VP

Mary Renner

Website

Nora Lee

Public Policy

Legal Advocacy VP &

Education Fund VP

Avanti Editor

Corrine Sacks

Silver Jubilee Fund Chair

Mary Suter

Voter Information

Sheila Bost

Tech Trek

Elaine Butler

College/University Liaison

Program VP

Kelly Joseph

Roli Wendoff

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	8	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Afternoon w/ Books 2:00 PM	18
19	20 Int'l Books 7:00 PM	21	22	23 Mystery/Adv 7:00PM	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
31						

As the arteries grow hard, the heart grows soft.

H.L. Mencken



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 equity 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.