

## President's Message

### *Planning Meeting*

The Board is having a planning meeting via Zoom on Saturday, August 1 at 10am. We will evaluate last year's events and programs and make plans for the current year. We will also develop our budget for this year. As a reminder, our branch is on a fiscal year from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. That is why it is time for membership renewals. In these uncertain times our program planning will be ongoing, and we welcome input from our members.

### *August 15 Zoom Meeting, 10 am*

**Mark your calendars!** We are having a Zoom conversation with Cathy Corcoran, our former branch president who returned home to Ireland several years ago. Cathy has maintained her branch membership and has kept up with events here. We would like to hear from Cathy about Ireland's response to Covid 19, Black Lives Matter, and other social issues. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the discussion through the chat function on Zoom.

We have extended the meeting invitation to members of our Interbranch Council branches and to members of the Marin AAUW branch. This is our first effort with wider Zoom participation. If successful, we will plan more such meetings.



Barbara Spencer, Cathy Corcoran

### *Cultural Diversity Education and Dignity Webinar*

Our branch member Rosaura Valle was one of the presenters in this AAUW-CA webinar on July 25, 2020. For those who missed it, you may find a recording of the presentation on the AAUW-CA website. It was an excellent and timely program, and Rosaura was a terrific participant.

### *Inspiration*

The passing of Congressman John Lewis and the events commemorating his life have provided me with much inspiration in these difficult times of physical isolation. Congressman Lewis presented such a positive role model with his refusal to become cynical or negative despite the barriers and abuse he suffered. I hope that we can all carry

a bit of his positivity with us and remember to cause good trouble.

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

### Afternoons With Books

**When: Friday, August 21, at 2:00 pm**

**Where:** On Zoom

**Book:** A book by Cokie Roberts

**RSVP:** Michelle at [mmammini@pacbell.net](mailto:mmammini@pacbell.net) or 415-346-9114.

We will also discuss how we will choose our books for the next year. Please bring your ideas.

### International Book Group

**When: Monday August 17, at 7:00 pm**

**Where:** On Zoom

**Book:** Beneath The Lion's Gaze, by Maaza Mengiste

**Hostess/Zoom Coordinator:** Barbara Spencer

**RSVP:** Barbara at 415-221-6690 or [barbaracspencer@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracspencer@gmail.com)

### Mystery/Adventure

**Date: August 27, at 7:30 pm**

**Book & Author:** Rage Against The Dying, by Becky Masterson

**Location:** On Zoom

**Reviewer:** Barbara Cohrssen

**RSVP:** Harriet Sollod 415-585-6869

New members are welcomed at any meeting.

**Heads Up. The September** will be the annual book choice for 2020-21. Please email choice of books and months to host and review to SusAn Peliks. It would be nice if we can meet in September but this may not happen. Further instructions will follow.

### Lunch Bunch

**When: Wednesday, August 19, at noon**

**Where:** On Zoom. Bring your lunch to sit and chat.

**RSVP:** [marsuter@yahoo.com](mailto:marsuter@yahoo.com)

Everyone is welcome to join in the conversation. We all need more ways to talk to one another!

### Save the Date

**AUGUST 15 at 10 am**

### ZOOM MEETING

A conversation with Cathy Corcoran, our former branch president, who returned home to Ireland several years ago.

Cathy will discuss Ireland's response to Covid 19, Black Lives Matter, and other social issues.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the discussion through the chat function on Zoom.

Please contact Barbara at 415-221-6690 or [barbaracspencer@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracspencer@gmail.com). She will send you the link, and you can join in the conversation (or just enjoy the discussion!

## Inventory of Mobility Aids

Recent injuries to branch members caused us to think that it would be useful to establish an inventory of mobility aids available for branch members to borrow. The idea is to develop a list of items with contact information so that those in need could seek an equipment loan.

### Referral List

While we are at it, what not develop a referral list as well? The idea is to list persons or companies you have found to be reliable, such as caregivers, plumbers, electricians. An established list would be so much easier than asking around in times of need.

### Point Person

Marlene Forde has offered to compile these lists and to answer inquiries when information is needed.

Please email her at [marlene.casey@yahoo.com](mailto:marlene.casey@yahoo.com) with your list of mobility aids and referrals.

## Resource List

### TRADES

#### PLUMBER:

One Source Plumbing: 415-750-3646

Rec. By Barbara Spencer (He is also highly rated on Yelp for quality and price)

### MOBILITY AIDS

Shower Bench Barbara —1

Walker Barbara —1

Toilet Rails Barbara —1

Wheel chair (new) with leg supports and removable arms Nancy —1

Bedside commode - New, very sturdy in steel Nancy —1

Bedside Commode Mary R—1

Crutches Mary R—1

Water Circulator Machine: to circulate cold water on knee, ankle, or elbow. Attaches with Velcro.

Mary R—1

### Pat Camarena



## The Light of Truth

"People must know before they act, and there is no educator to compare with the press". This quote attributed to Ida B. Wells may sound quite timely, however she made this statement a great many decades ago. Ida B. Wells is remembered as a journalist and lecturer, writing in defense of civil rights and pointing out injustices often specifically against lynching.

Born into slavery in Mississippi, during the first year of the Civil War, Ida Wells was orphaned by an epidemic in her early teens. She supported her younger siblings while studying for a degree. After moving to Memphis and working as a teacher, she began to write in the local news outlets for blacks. Her articles often incurred the wrath of readers as well as the school board. When her teaching contract was not renewed, Ida turned to journalism as a career. She bought a one-third interest in a Memphis Black newspaper. Under its editorial banner, Wells led the charge against the loss of liberties that local African Americans had gained under Reconstruction. As black men lost the vote that they had been accustomed to in the two decades since the Confederacy ended, it was a black woman (who never had a vote) who led the crusade against the loss of their civil rights.

Wells would establish her primary reputation, however for writing against lynching...another case that affected men more directly than women. She editorialized against lynching occurring in the small towns in the Tennessee-Arkansas-Mississippi area near Memphis. White newspapers responded with editorials charging that her paper was inciting violence. They were assuming the editorialist was the local minister of the church where Ida had her office. Intimidated, he fled west after city officials filed trumped up charges against him. Ida, who was the genuine source of the articles, was now half owner and the clear power behind the paper.

Outraged editorials flowed from Ida's pen following the deaths of three of her friends in a mob attack by white racists. She urged black citizens to boycott the city's streetcars. Her office was ransacked and her life threatened. She decided to move on.

Settling in Chicago, Ida continued to crusade against lynching in particular, and discrimination against Black citizens in general. She gained national prominence after being invited to lecture in England. So effective a speaker was Wells that a well-funded British antilynching society was formed to influence American opinion. A white Chicago paper actually featured a regular column titled "Ida Wells Abroad". Two histories of lynching based on her writings, continued to publicize the cause.

After marrying a journalist/politician in her thirties, Ida had four children in the space of eight years. Consequently her primary focus for a time became her family responsibilities. However, in addition to her continuing interest in investigating lynchings, she also involved herself in the founding of the NAACP and the growing women's suffrage movement. She gradually grew frustrated and disappointed in the slow progress of change. She quarreled publically with many of the era's black leaders. She gradually became less sought after for advice. As time passed, fewer and fewer leaders acknowledged how very unique she had been as a woman who espoused a radical racial philosophy early on.. However, it is certain that Ida B. Wells saved many lives due to her courage in speaking out during the worst of the Jim Crow days.

Freedom of the Press seems just as important today as it was in Ida's time.

[www.womenshistory.org](http://www.womenshistory.org)

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

[www.freedomcenter.org](http://www.freedomcenter.org)

## Playing Now Paula Campbell

Oh how I miss live theatre! The electric feelings of the crowd, the sparkling performances of the players, the magnificent theatres themselves. But in the last few days I've seen some wonderful things on my own small screen, and you could be seeing them too.

The Live at Lincoln website, in cooperation with you tube, is now hosting a full scale production of Rogers and Hammerstein's **Carousel**, one of my favorite shows. Just go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxRMIvmwxM&list=RDzpgnolyNGiQ&index=2> and tune in. It's a full scale production with sets, costumes, the whole nine yards. **Carousel** is a musical adaptation of Ferenc Molnar's play **Liliom**, set to music and moved from Budapest to a New England fishing village. The score includes such popular favorites as *June Is Bustin' Out All Over*, *If I Loved You*, *You'll Never Walk Alone*. **Carousel** was a success when it opened in 1945 and ran for almost two years. Over the years the ending became controversial. Billy Bigelow, the tough guy main character, returns from the dead to meet the daughter, before whose birth he died. He gives her a star he's stolen from heaven, but she rejects it because it's stolen. Unable to control his temper, he slaps her, hard. After Billy leaves, she tells Julie, her mother what happened, and says the slap felt like a kiss. She asks if that's possible – and the reply is Yes. That raised no eyebrows till the 1970's, when the burgeoning women's movement made it clear that physical abuse is never OK, and a slap is far from a kiss. More recent productions have changed the ending lines. There is a wonderful Cinemascope movie of **Carousel** starring Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones. The show has been frequently revived, both in the US and London. In

1999 Time magazine named **Carousel** the best musical of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

BTW, one of my favorite songs from **Carousel** is *When I Marry Mr. Snow*, in which one of Julie's friends rhapsodizes over her forthcoming marriage to a fisherman, trying not to think too much of how bad he smells, overwhelmingly of fish. But surely love will make up for that. It never fails to make me smile.

And it's available now – don't miss it.

The second wonderful thing I've seen recently is a full length concert version of **My Fair Lady**, sung by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Jeremy Irons, with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by John Mauceri, performed for a live audience at the Royal Albert Hall in London. **My Fair lady** is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpgnolyNGiQ&list=RDzpgnolyNGiQ&index=1>

So there is great theatre to be watched – just not live.

## Sheltering in Place

### August Birthdays

Peg Jackson	August 10
Elizabeth Ray	August 15
Persis Ainey	August 23
Nancy Shapiro	August 25
Kathlyn Hart Alford	August 25

#### Birthday Not Announced?

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

It has been a long 3 months, and, perhaps more to come. We are all having issues around being isolated.

Studies have shown that going to the beach and listening to the waves is a simple and easy way to relax. We, here in San Francisco, are fortunate to have the beach close by and available. So try a visit there. Just walk along the path, or sit and listen. It is something you can do by yourself whenever you want to.

It helps to talk to someone. You might need someone other than friends or family.

If you feel lonely and need to talk to someone, there are two places that will help.

**The Institute on Aging** offers a 24 hour friendship line for people 60 years and older, adults with disabilities and those who feeling isolated.  
**800-971-0016**

**Mental Health Association of San Francisco** has a 24 hour peer-run line for nonemergency emotional support.  
**855-845-7415**

**Reach out if you need support. Remember you are invited to join any of our ZOOM groups.**

**AAUWSF Board**

Contact us:

[aauwsfbranch@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsfbranch@gmail.com)

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**August 2020**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Conversation with Cathy 10AM
16	17 Intern'l Book 7PM	18	19 Lunch Bunch 12 Noon	20	21 Afternoon/ Books 2:00PM	22
23	24	25	26	27 Mystery/Adv 7:30PM	28	29
30	31					

*I've always tried to go a step past wherever people expected me to end up.*

Beverly Sills



**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](http://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.