



DECEMBER DATES

December 1: TTAG Meeting, 7 pm

December 5: TTAG event at Exploratorium, 1 pm

December 6: Hanukkah ends

December 8: AAUW-SF Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

December 1: Mystery/Adventure Book Group 7:30 pm

December 17: Afternoon with Books, 1:30 pm

December 25: Christmas

December 26: Kwanzaa begins

December 29: DEI Book Discussion, 7:30 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joan-Marie Shelley

I want to mark the passing of Joan-Marie Shelley who was a valued member of our branch for a number of years. She was an esteemed French teacher at Lowell High School and a notable labor leader. Joan-Marie served as president of United Educators of San Francisco and led them through 4 strikes. She was a remarkable presence. Joan-Marie belonged to the International Book Group and brought us all to attention whenever she spoke. She seemed somewhat frail until she began speaking. Then she held the room. What a life she led!

AAUW Anniversary

AAUW national held a celebration on November 17 of its 140th anniversary. Over the past 140 years, AAUW has evolved to become the leading voice in advancing gender equity in education and workplaces everywhere. Our San Francisco branch was initially formed in 1886, making it the second oldest branch in the country at 135!

Holiday Luncheon

Sadly, we have had several false starts on planning in-person luncheons. We ran out of time for planning a December event, but we hope to have a luncheon in January to celebrate the New Year.

Stay tuned! But as I write this message, we are learning of a new Covid variant which may dash our hopes. We will keep you informed by email and in the January Avanti.

Holiday Wishes to All

Whatever holidays you celebrate, I hope they are joyful and safe.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President



I read this today and thought I'd share it with you.

The Train

Author unknown

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, strangers and even the love of your life.

However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum.

Some, however, will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats.

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down.

So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.

It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey for the coming years on your train of life. Reap success, give lots of love and be happy. More importantly, thank God for the journey!

Lastly, I want to thank you for being one of the passengers on my train!

Happy Holidays!

Kelly Joseph, Co-President

Board Meeting

The next board meet in will be on December 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting on Zoom.

All members are welcome. Contact Barbara at barbaracspencer@gmail.com

Afternoons With Books

When: Friday, December 17, at 1:30 pm

Where: Zoom

What: *The Paris Library*, by Janet Skeslien

Moderator: **Michelle Mammini; Corrine Sacks**

Zoom coordinator: **Michelle Mammini**

mmammini@pacbel.net

International Book Group

The group will not meet in December. They are taking time out for holiday celebrations with family and friends.

For the next meeting in January we will be reading

The Song of Achilles, by Madeline Miller.

It is a big book, so you might want to get a head start.

Mystery/Adventure

Date: December 16 at 7:30 PM.

Location: Zoom

Book & Author: *How to Catch a Russian Spy: The true story of an American Civilian Turned Double Agent*, by Naveed Jamali

Reviewer: Susanne Marouka

RSVP: Elaine Butler 415-305-2220 or

elainebutler124@comcast.net to get the Zoom link

Chapter-wide DEI Book Group Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Date: Wednesday, December 29, at 7:30 PM.

Location: Zoom

Contact Kelly for Zoom link.

kelly.wysinger@sbcglobal.net

Lunch Bunch

There will be no December Lunch Bunch. We will start again in January. Happy Holidays.

TTAG Event

What: TTAG Exploratorium Event

When: Sunday, December 5 at 1PM

STEM passionate members are welcome to attend (mask and vaccination required)

Please contact Mary at mlrenner@icloud.com

For additional information.

Tech Trek

We continue to gather teacher contacts to nominate our 2022 campers. This month the nomination forms will be sent to the teachers that we have found. We will continue our search for 7th grade science and math teachers.

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator, SF Branch

Pat Camarena

MARGARET



It's only been since the mid 1980s that the rose has been officially America's national flower. Traditionally roses are considered symbols of life, love, and beauty. The grounds of our White

House boasts a beautiful rose garden. The final choice of the rose over other floral candidates was made by Congress after a spirited but prolonged debate. An influential Republican leader, Everett Dirksen, favored the marigold, but Margaret, a relatively new member of Congress representing Maine, favored the rose. She pinned a rose to her lapel daily before she took her seat or stood up to speak in the chambers. The persistence and common sense that she demonstrated early on in her career finally convinced Congress members on both sides of the aisle to agree to authorize the necessary bill to officially make the rose our national flower. Subsequently a new rose variety was named after her.

It would be a shame however, if Margaret Chase Smith is only remembered for this one achievement and for the rose that bears her name. She accomplished so much more during her many years in both the House and the Senate. She never missed a roll call. A woman of unquestioned integrity, she was a Maine Republican who voted with the Democratic Party more often than many Democrats. It was this personal independence and thoughtfulness that made her a source of pride for women throughout the nation. As a member of the House Naval Affairs Committee she advocated for new programs to benefit naval personnel especially women. In the era of McCarthyism, her 1950 speech, called "A Declaration of Conscience", urged moderation and tolerance. Still considered to be an important historical document, it was a brave stand considering that at the time, she was the first and only woman serving in the Senate, and had only been there for less than two years. McCarthy and his supporters attempted to get her dropped from membership in an important investigating committee and tried to have her defeated in the next election.

As Margaret said, "My creed is that public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation with full recognition

that every human being is entitled to courtesy and consideration. That constructive criticism is not only to be expected but sought, that smears are not only to be expected, that honor is to be earned, but not bought. “

Wise words from a rose lover.

www.nps.gov

www.americanswhotellthetruth.org

www.womenofthehall.org

Paula Campbell

Playing Now

Just got home from Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley, the season opener at The Marin Theatre company. What can I say that Lily Janiak, the reviewer for the SF Chronicle, hasn't said already in her rave review. The production is magnificent! Set, costumes, and most important, script are each like a beautifully sculpted piece of art.

Christmas at Pemberley is the third and final installment of this series, based on the writing of Jane Austin. The show is amazing – it actually sounds like Jane Austin – the dialogue is totally true to Austin's phrasing, use of language, sense of the propriety of her time, use of humor, portrayal of family relationships.

Authors Lauren Gunderson and *Margot Melcon*, who wrote the first two of the C at P play trilogy, have outdone themselves in this, the last play of the series. The Austin theme of women's roles in the family and in society come to fruition in this play. Stern fathers who thwart their daughters' love finally see the error of their ways, frustrated women artists are finally recognized and lauded for their achievements.

C at P 1, begins with the generation at the end of *Pride and Prejudice*, C at P 2 moves to their families, and G&K: C at P 3 moves ahead to the following generation in Act 1, and their adult children 20 years later in Act 2.

Act 1 is set in the beautiful, lavishly decorated for Christmas home of the Darcys', Act 2 takes place 20 years later in the London home of one of their daughters. It's an ambitious undertaking – the set change between acts 1 and 2 is done in full sight of the audience. Furniture pieces come and go, as do walls, rugs are removed and new ones laid, the Christmas tree now sits in a back corner, far less resplendent than before. The audience cheered the set change.

The theme however shines most brightly in Act 2. Georgina, a brilliant pianist who was cruelly separated from the man she loved in Act 1 is now a famous pianist and composer, and has started a society for Professional Women Musicians. And she is reunited with the man she loves. Wow – that's the trifecta for a woman, or come to think of it, even for a man, of that era.

There's so much to say – let me just urge everyone to see the show before it closes on Dec. 16. It's a great production, and a brave one. There are nine actors in C at P – in this time of Covid to mount a production with such a big cast, a period piece requiring great financial outlays and costumes alone, is an heroic act. I estimate the theater was less than one third full, which is heartbreaking. Who knows what will happen next – as omicron rears its ugly head.

Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley

Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, through Dec. 19.

Tickets: Box Office 415-388-5209]

Online: <https://tickets.marintheatre.org>

Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Wed 7:30pm, Sun 7pm, Wed, Sun 2pm.



AAUWSF Board

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December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 TTAG meeting 7:00 PM	2	3	4
5 TTAG Event 1:00 PM	6	7	8 Board Meeting 7PM	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Mystery/Adv 7:30PM	17 Afternoon w/ Books 1:30 PM	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas
26 Kwanzaa begins	27	28	29 DEI Book Discussion 7:30 PM	30	31	

What lies behind us and what lies before us are but tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Avanti Editor

AAUW
 San Francisco Branch
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 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.