

## President's Message



Here's hoping that 2021 will be an easier year for all and that we will once again be able to meet in person sometime during the year!

Our virtual Holiday Luncheon was a great success. We saw some new faces and found that the zoom format allowed us to visit with and hear from everyone. We will be continuing with zoom meetings for all groups for the foreseeable future.

For now, there will be only virtual Tech Trek Camp in the summer of 2021. After much consideration our board decided against sending any girls to virtual camp. Instead, we are concentrating on forming a Tech Trek Alumnae group. Rosaura Valle has agreed to head up the effort. Please contact her if you are interested in helping. We are very excited about the possibilities.

We still have more planning to do for the rest of the AAUW year that ends June 30. That will take place at our virtual board meeting on January 13. If you have ideas for programs and/or activities, please contact me or any other board member.

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the holidays and is doing well. Feel free to reach out if you need help.

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

# Happy New Year 2021

Wow! What a year. 2020 has been impactful. In some ways we've been forced to connect with family and friends differently. It has allowed us to share in the "circle of life" that we could not have imagined a year ago. A great take away is that you can stay connected to people who bring you joy.

I see 2021 as a year to reflect and act. We continue to fight for equality for women and minorities. How are we "advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research"? This is the mission of our branch and we welcome you to share your ideas.

I invite you to a conversation on January 27th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. which will be held via Zoom. We will discuss our branch selected book *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson. We will share our thoughts on parts three, four, and five. Please email me any questions or comments you'd like to have included in the discussion by emailing me at [kelly.wysinger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kelly.wysinger@sbcglobal.net). It's not too late to start the book and meet with us.

I hope you are safe, healthy and happy!

**Kelly Joseph, Co-President**

### Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for **January, 13, 2021 at 7 P.M. via Zoom**. All members are welcome to attend. Contact Barbara at [barbaracspencer@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracspencer@gmail.com) for details.

### Afternoons With Books

**When:** Friday, January 15, at 2:00 pm  
**Where:** On Zoom  
**Book/Author:** *The Leopard*, by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa  
**Presenter:** Anni Puckett

Please contact Michelle at [mmammini@pacbell.net](mailto:mmammini@pacbell.net) if you would like to join the discussion

### International Book Group

**Date:** Monday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m.  
**Book/Author:** *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, by Christy Lefteri  
**Hostess/Zoom Coordinator:** Barbara Spencer  
Please RSVP to Barbara at 415-221-6690 or [barbaracspencer@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracspencer@gmail.com)

### Mystery/Adventure

We are back to our regular 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday meeting schedule. Hope you had a safe and resilient holiday season. Hope there was much joy too.

**Date:** January 28, 7:30 pm  
**Book and Author:** *First Cut* by Judy Melinek and T.J. Mitchell

We will be meeting using Zoom. Please call Elaine Butler for the zoom link, 415-305-2220. New members always welcomed

### Lunch Bunch

**When:** Wednesday, January 13, at noon  
**Where:** On Zoom. Bring your lunch, since we can't eat out.  
**Who:** All SF AAUW members and friends, are invited to both eat, and chat with others during these days of sheltering at home.

**If you would like join us please contact** Mary at [marsuter@yahoo.com](mailto:marsuter@yahoo.com) or 415-665-1185

## One Branch, One Book

Our branch has selected the book **Caste** by Isabel Wilkerson as our first “One Branch, One Book” for this year. Our next discussion on parts three, four, and five, will be held via Zoom on January 27, at 7:30 p.m. Please share any questions or comments you’d like to have included in the discussion by emailing me at [kjoseph@aauf.org](mailto:kjoseph@aauf.org). We look forward to learning and growing together.

**Kelly Joseph, Co-President**

## Tech Trek

We will not be participating in in the virtual camp provided by AAUW-CA.

## AAUW GRATITUDE TO AAUW - SF

Dear AAUW San Francisco Branch leaders and members,

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! I hope this note finds you and all your branch members safe and well and that you’ve drawn strength during these challenging times from the bonds that connect AAUW members. Goodness, what a year 2020 has been. As this difficult year finally draws to its close, all of us at AAUW National continue to work from home, as we have since mid-March—which seems like light years ago! I’m so proud of our national office staff and all they’ve accomplished this year: pivoting to virtual programs, increasing our advocacy and working with fierce commitment to further our mission.

I just learned from our team that your San Francisco Branch made a generous gift to our Greatest Needs Fund. Please share my personal thanks with all those whose passion for AAUW’s mission made this gift possible.

Your AAUW Greatest Needs gift provides flexible support, which is especially important now as we’ve faced challenges on every front. We are working to ensure that gains we’ve won won’t be lost—in educational opportunity, economic security, leadership and every arena in which we work.

The pandemic has exacerbated and highlighted inequities that run deep and, with your support, we’re meeting the moment. Just recently, I wrote an op-ed for Newsweek about how COVID19 is so tough on working moms, and what policies and actions we can take towards economic recovery. But it’s a long road ahead. I’m proud to report that your national staff is as hard at work and as motivated as we’ve ever been to secure equity for all women and girls.

Please take every precaution and be safe this holiday season and on into the new year. Thank you, thank you, thank you—and I hope to “see” many of you on a Zoom AAUW webinar soon!

With gratitude,

Kim Churches

Kimberly Churches (she/her/hers)

Chief Executive Officer

AAUW

## Work Smart and Webinars in January 2021

January 2021 is the last opportunity to attend AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation workshops sponsored by our branch and organized by the FRIENDS of the Commission on the Status of Women, San Francisco. The salary negotiation program in San Francisco was a three year partnership between national AAUW and FRIENDS, which began in December 2017. Any remaining workshops sponsored by our branch will be completed this month. Registration links and schedule information about them can be found [here](#).

AAUW California is offering an excellent webinar on ***Title IX: Breaking Down Barriers*** by Alicia Hetman and a panel of knowledgeable speakers. They will review the history of Title IX, the impact on athletics/physical education, the new fight to reverse the damaging aspects of the Title IX Sexual Harassment Rule, and what you, as an individual and an AAUW branch, can do to inform your community members.

**When: Monday, January 11, 7:00 PM**

**Registration:** Click [HERE](#) to register.

Another upcoming webinar is ***Mentoring Women for Career Advancement*** about a mentorship program for students and young women members who aspire to advance in their careers.

**When: Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 PM**

**Registration:** Click [HERE](#) to register.

Roli Wendorf

## With Sympathy

Elaine Butler lost her mother and her friend to Covid 19 this week. Elaine's mother would have been 96 on December 2. They both lived in the Midwest. We send best wishes to Elaine at this time of sadness.

## Inventory of Mobility Aids

We are looking for additional resources such as handy persons, electricians, light moving help, as well as names of care givers. We all are in need of a variety of assistance these days, and often don't know who to go to for information.

### Point Person

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

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

**Pat Camarena**

## **THE EXHILARATION OF THE CLIMB**



Determined to go to college despite the misgivings of her father, Agnes held down several part-time jobs and received a scholarship. After graduating from Barnard in 1907 at the age of twenty, she met John Dewey who was to strongly influence her lifelong interest in public education. Her one year spent at the Sorbonne introduced her to Gertrude Stein's famed Paris Salons. There she rubbed shoulders with many writers and artists who were to nurture her love of art. After her return to America, she obtained one of the first jobs the New York Sun gave to a female reporter. For three years she worked diligently to prove herself as a creditable journalist.

After her marriage to Eugene Meyer, a well-to-do financier and art lover, eleven years her senior, her journalistic career was temporarily put on the back burner by motherhood. Nevertheless the birth of her children did little to diminish her intellectual life. She published the first of several books in the early 1920s. When her in laws

purchased the Washington Post in the 1930s, Agnes began to write in earnest. She contributed regularly to the Post. As she matured, her opinions grew increasingly liberal. The improvement of the public school system and the civil rights movement were just two of her major areas of interest. Lyndon Johnson was so impressed by her writings that he viewed her as one of his chief inspirations for his War on Poverty. Though she had been active in Republican politics in the twenties, in the fifties she leant her support to Democratic liberal Adlai Stevenson. She used both her considerable speaking skills and the power of her pen to bring attention to the negative effect of the political rise of Joseph McCarthy. She believed that the federal government needed to increase support for education and social programs. As a result of her efforts, Agnes Meyer received a dozen honorary degrees as well as awards from organizations ranging from the NAACP to the National Press Club.

Agnes and her husband Eugene also became major financial supporters of the fine arts. Agnes cultivated many friends among artists and intellectuals from all over the world. She and her husband used their considerable wealth to acquire many superb paintings for the Washington National Gallery of Art by such well known artists as Paul Cézanne and Edouard Manet among others.

Agnes passed on her belief in the importance of well researched news reporting to her daughter Katherine who went on to direct the Washington Post for many years following the death of her husband. Kay Meyer Graham won the nation's respect for her courage in seeking the truth that forced both Agnew's and President Nixon's resignations. Remember Watergate and the Pentagon Papers?

The journalistic apple did not fall far from the tree. Both Agnes and her daughter Kay shared a belief in "the exhilaration of genuine effort". Agnes said., "The fatigue of the climb was

great but it is interesting to learn once more how much further one can go on one's second wind."

[www.womenofeverycomplexionandcomplexity.weebly.com](http://www.womenofeverycomplexionandcomplexity.weebly.com)

[www.pinterest.se](http://www.pinterest.se)

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

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

## January Birthdays

Wanda Holland Greene January 8

Jean Feeney January 10

### Birthday Not Announced?

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

## Sheltering in Place

The new year has not brought us relief from sheltering in place. We are all weary of the isolation, but we all understand the need for continued vigilance which will help to ensure our health, and those we love. Keep up what you are doing, and remember to try some new things. There is a lot of new and exciting activities being broadcast. And new things are being added daily.

### Remember

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

Here 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.**

**And you are invited to join any of our ZOOM groups.**

Read new and familiar books and discuss What you felt, or learned or liked about them. We all have different opinions, and these talks let us see what we read in different lights.

If you just need a place where you can talk with others, join us for lunch and an opportunity to have a meal with others and all the things we are experiencing..



**AAUWSF Board**

Contact us:

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

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**January 2021**

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

*My great hope is to laugh as much as I cry, to get my work done, and try to love somebody, and have the courage to accept the love in return.*

*Maya Angelou*



**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.