



President's Message

EMERGING FROM THE FOG

Things are looking up! The growing number of vaccinated Californians is leading to opening up community spaces and public events, especially for fully vaccinated folks. Perhaps we will be able to greet each other in person soon.

Voting

We are in the midst of both state and national AAUW elections. All members with a valid email have been sent information for voting online. The state voting period is April 16-May 7, and the national voting period is April 7-May 17, 2021. On the state ballot there is one contested position for director, as well as public policy updates, and a proposed change in the terms for directors. Our own Roli Wendorf is running unopposed for state Chief Financial Officer.

The national AAUW ballot has a very important proposed bylaw change in membership qualifications. As has been discussed in the last two newsletters, the proposal is to remove the degree requirement for membership and to welcome all those who support our mission. The proposed change is supported by the national and state boards as well as our branch board.

The degree requirement has come to be viewed as elitist and out of touch with cultural change. At the present time, even Lilly Ledbetter would not qualify for membership. If we are to promote equity for all, we should be open to all. Please refer to the national and state websites for a more detailed discussion of the membership issue.

PLEASE VOTE!

Membership Renewal and Dues

Mary Renner, our Membership Vice President, has been sending out renewal notices with information for renewing online. I hope you will take

advantage of this easy method of renewal. You will see that the dues have increased \$3.00 to reflect the increase in national dues. Our dues for fiscal year 2021-2022 will be \$83.00. We do not want to lose any members because of the dues increase and are able to provide financial assistance if needed. Just contact a member of the board.

Our branch has been very active this year despite the pandemic. We have continued our book groups and the lunch bunch group, and we have formed a new branch wide book discussion group. Branch wide zoom meetings were held to discuss events in Ireland and the elimination of the degree requirement.

Although Tech Trek was cancelled last summer and will be virtual this summer, we have used this hiatus to establish a Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) to enlarge our Tech Trek involvement. We presented a STEM Career Panel and a meeting on How to Get Into College for Tech Trekkers and other interested girls.

Stay well and be in touch,

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for **May 12 2021 at 7 P.M. via Zoom**. All members are welcome to attend. Contact Barbara at 415-221-6690 or barbaracspencer@gmail.com

Afternoons With Books

When: Friday, May 21, at 1:30 pm

Where: On Zoom

Book/Author: **Between Heaven and Hell**, by David Talbot

Presenter: **Connie Armstrong**

To join the discussion, please contact Michelle Mammini at mmammini@pacbell.net

International Book Group

Date: **Monday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.**

Book/Author: **Amnesty**, by Aravind Adiga

Hostess/Zoom Coordinator: **Barbara Spencer**

Please RSVP to Barbara at 415-221-6690 or barbaracspencer@gmail.com

Mystery/Adventure

Date: **May 27, 7:30 pm**

Book and Author: **Working Stiff**, by Judy Melinck & T.J. Mitchell

Reviewer: Suzanne

Location: Zoom. Call Elaine Butler for link at 415-305-2220 or elainebutler124@comcast.net

New members welcomed to join our discussions

Tech Trek

I am so pleased to be part of one of the workgroups that are updating and working on the internal structure of the California program. We are planning to have residential camps located on California college campus'. We hope to be finished for the summer of 2022.

Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator, SF Branch

Lunch Bunch

There will be no zoom meeting for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, May 19.

Lunch Bunch will take a hiatus until we all can meet in groups for lunch at a restaurant.

Questions? please contact Mary at marsuter@yahoo.com

One Book, One Branch

Please join us in our continuing conversation of the book, *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019* by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. Our next meeting is

Wednesday, June 2, Parts 6 and 7 at 7:30

We look forward to seeing you via Zoom. .

Everyone is welcome to join us. Contact Kelly at Kelly.wysinger@sbcglobal.net to be sent the Zoom link.

Tech Trek

**TTAG: Tech Trek Alumnae Group
by Rosaura Valle**

How to Get into College Workshop

"If you are old enough to be here today, you are old enough to start working at finding your spark, and getting the most out of your Summer activities!" This is one of the take home messages that Eve Cooper left our audience with during the

AAUW-SF-TTA* "How to get into college" online workshop.

The workshop, that took place on Saturday April 24 from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, featured a 45-min presentation by Novato-based independent college counselor **Eve Cooper** on tips and resources for getting into college, followed by a Q&A with **Kimia Sattary**, Lowell HS senior and San Francisco Branch 2016 Tech Trek Alumna (TTA).

Eve's overview of the college application process covered everything from types of colleges to how to shine as a competitive college applicant, and from encouraging students to find summer activities that foster growth and experience to a wealth of web resources. Her presentation was made available to the attendees.

A central part of the workshop was a 10-min breakout room session involving a career discussion. Participants were asked to complete a pre-workshop assignment by exploring career options using the career quiz offered by the careergirls.org website. The latter offers a platform of 16,000 videos of 800 diverse, accomplished women role models talking about their career path in a variety of fields and industries from fashion design to engineering. Students were assigned to different breakout rooms of 4 participants together with a guest speaker as facilitator. With 8 TTA attending (two of whom joined from the AAUW Beach Cities Branch of Southern California), the intimate setting allowed students to fully take advantage of the breakout room session by sharing their career explorations and getting to know each other.

The Q&A portion of the workshop served as an informative extension of the presentation: attendees typed compelling questions in the zoom chat function, and guest speakers Eve and Kimia

responded by complementing each other's viewpoint while expanding on the presentation.

Kimia, who is interested in pursuing mechanical engineering, has been recently admitted to top colleges and will attend UC Berkeley. Her real-life experience meant a world to our attendees whose age ranged from 8th graders to HS seniors. Kimia's path, from Tech Trek camper to AAUW-SF-TTA event panelist illustrates how powerful the impact of the Tech Trek camp is to 7th graders. It also shows how mentorship across TTA of different ages may play an instrumental role in solidifying Tech Trek campers' interests in STEM, while offering positive high school role models.

A big thank you to our AAUW-SF-TTA Committee dedicated members** who volunteered in the planning and making of this event. If you want to know more or volunteer in any way, please contact aauwsfbranch@gmail.com or one of us!

*AAUW-San Francisco Branch Tech Trek Alumnae Program

** : Barbara Spencer, Kelly Joseph, Roli Wendorf, Mary Renner, Connie Armitage, Mary Suter, Rosaura Valle



Eve Cooper



Kamia Sattery

Girls Baseball Thriving in the Bay Area



Oz Sailors

Oz Sailors (she took the nickname "Oz" because her given first name (Ghazaleh) was difficult to pronounce), grew up with big dreams: She wanted to become the female version of Jackie Robinson.

Sailors figured she was on track when she made the All-Star team at age 8 in her hometown of Santa Barbara. Soon thereafter, one coach offered a familiar, frustrating refrain for girls who want to play baseball — he told Sailors she would have to switch to softball before turning 12.

"That made me never want to switch," she said. "As I made it through travel ball and showed I was

a good player, more people tried to push me into softball. And the more I wanted to prove I belonged in baseball.”

Sailors made her point, not only in high school but also by pitching for the University of Maine at Presque Isle, a Division III program.

Her hat and a baseball from that start, she said, ended up at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Then she traveled the world to play baseball professionally, from Virginia and the independent league [San Rafael Pacifics](#) to Australia, Japan and Korea (where she played on a U.S. all-star team), plus a coaching stop in China.

Now, at 27 years old and after two seasons as varsity head coach at Moreau-Hayward, she’s the head coach at Urban School of San Francisco. Sailors is believed to be the only female varsity baseball head coach in the country, according to Justine Siegal of Baseball For All, a nonprofit seeking to provide opportunities for girls and women to play, coach and lead in the game

This comes at a time when more women are earning coaching opportunities across men’s professional sports. That includes [Alyssa Nakken](#) (Giants), one of 22 women who are either on-field coaches or in player-development roles in major-league baseball; Becky Hammon (Spurs) and former Cal head coach [Lindsay Gottlieb](#) (Cavaliers), among the 10 female assistant coaches in the NBA; and former 49ers assistant Katie Sowers, one of

Sailors expressed optimism that things are changing in the U.S., creating more opportunities.

Ron Kroichick *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 23, 2021

Pat Camarena



His Inspiration

Eighteen year old Mary Baird first met William, a pre law student, at one of the socials in the parlor of her Illinois female academy. She was apparently not immediately taken with him but he could sense in her gaze ,the strong intellect behind her gentle appearance.

After their marriage a few years later, William aspired to enter politics. He was to become a very influential figure during the Progressive Era. He considered Mary to be his inspiration and valued her opinions. Her support was crucial. More about William’s career later.

Mary herself came to prominence as a skilled writer and also as suffragette. While William traveled extensively on speaking tours, she took up the study of law and passed the bar exam. She oversaw the publication of his weekly newspaper. When they began to travel widely throughout the world for his speaking engagements, she learned German in order to help his career.

Seeking a warmer climate, the family relocated first to Texas, but later put down permanent roots in Florida. There Mary became an inspirational leader in the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the National American Women's Suffrage Association. In 1917, she led a speaking tour of the state on behalf of the suffrage association. During the same year, she spoke before the Florida legislature in favor of a constitutional amendment to enfranchise women. Two years later, in 1919, the 19th Amendment passed granting women the right to vote. After William's death, Mary wrote and guided the publication of the major part of her husband's memoirs.

Mary's husband was William Jennings Bryan. William had become a member of the US House of Representatives. With Mary's support after the turn of the new century, William became the Democratic nominee for President. He also served as the United State Secretary of State under Woodrow Wilson. Despite mixed reviews during his later years for his anti-Darwinism opinions and pre-WWI neutrality views, William Jennings Bryan is considered to have been one of the most influential political figures of the early 20th century. Mary was always his inspiration and support.

Not falling very far from the inspiration tree, their daughter Ruth was to have her own political career. She was elected as Florida's first female U.S. Congressional Representative. She was also the first woman to earn a seat in the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs. In 1933, Ruth Bryan Owen became the first woman to be appointed as a U.S. Ambassador to Denmark and Iceland.

Quite a family tree.

www.nebraskahistory.postperfectonline.com
www.arlingtoncemetery.net
www.palmbeachpost.newspapers.com

May Birthdays

Delores Schoen	May 8
Lisa Aquino	May 18

Birthday Not Announced?

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

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 with your list of mobility aids and referrals. marleneford@yahoo.com

AAUWSF Board

Contact us:

aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

Co-Presidents

Barbara Spencer
Kelly Joseph

Treasurer

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Roseaura Valle

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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

May 2021

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

Keep all special thoughts and memories for lifetimes to come. Share these keepsakes with others to inspire hope and build from the past, which can bridge to the future.

Mattie Stepanek



Avanti Editor

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 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.