



## NOVEMBER DATES

November 3, TTAG Meeting, 7:00 pm

November 6, Membership Committee Meeting, 10:00 am

November 7, Daylight Savings Time ends

November 7, AAUW Funds event, 1-3 pm

November 9, Friends of the Commission on Status of Women CEDAW Women's Human Rights Awards, 5:30-7:00 pm

November 10, AAUW-SF Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

November 15, International Book Group, 7:00 pm

November 16, AAUW-CA Webinar, Finders-Keepers: Recruiting and Retaining Members, 7:00 pm

November 17, Lunch Bunch, 12 noon, DEI Book Discussion, 7:30 pm

November 18, Mystery/Adventure Book Group, 7:30 pm

November 19, Afternoon with Books, 1:30 pm

November 25, **Thanksgiving**

## President's Message

### ***New Look***

We've placed the calendar of events front and center to change things up and to make sure that all members and guests know what is happening. If you have ideas for enlivening Avanti, we'd love to hear them.

### ***AAUW Funds Events***

There is still one more chance on November 7 to learn about AAUW endowment funds and to hear from some of the current fellowship recipients. Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education. We provide nearly \$5 million per year in fellowship and grants. Historically, the program was referred to as AAUW Funds and was a separate entity. Now it is part of AAUW itself and is well-funded through various endowed fellowships. Over 130 years AAUW has given more than \$115 million to more than 13,000 women and non-profit organizations around the world. We can be proud of this legacy.

To register for the free November 7 event, please go the state website at [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org).

### ***Covid-19***

Booster shots are now available for all brands of vaccines for those over 65 years old. I got mine at CVS by making an appointment online. Please make sure to get that booster jab!

Happy Thanksgiving!

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

We've had lots of activity in October and look forward to staying connected and doing great work.

We had a meeting for new and interested members, hosted by board member Roli Wendorf. We had 3 meetings on Saturday, October 23. We met our new Inter-branch Council President, Peggy Rozhon. Our annual Funds Luncheon was a Zoom meeting. The work these women are doing is making a difference in the world. It makes us proud of what our support is helping to create. You can find the event at:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-2021-fund-events/>

You'll read more about our TTAG event from Rosaura Valle in this newsletter.

AAUW SF - DEI Book Discussion will resume this month. We are reading *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein. Other dates and information will be emailed to all. Thank you for your suggestions.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!  
In health & happiness,

**Kelly Joseph, Co-President**

### **Board Meeting**

The next board meet in will be on November 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting on Zoom.

All members are welcome. Contact Barbara at [barbaracspenser@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracspenser@gmail.com)

### **Afternoons With Books**

**When: Friday, November 19, at 1:30 pm**

**Where:** Zoom

**What: *Isaac's Storm* by Erik Larson**

**Moderator: Pat Spencer**

**Zoom coordinator: Michelle Mammini**

[mmammini@pacbel.net](mailto:mmammini@pacbel.net)

### **International Book Group**

**Date: Monday, November 15, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Book/Author: *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, by Ocean Vuong**

**Where:** Corrine Sacks, 1835 Franklin St, #401, and on Zoom.

**RSVP:** Barbara at 415-221-6690 or

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

### **Mystery/Adventure**

**Date: November 18 at 7:30 PM.**

**Location:** Zoom

**Book & Author: *Bloodroot*, by Cynthia Riggs**

**Reviewer:** Elaine Butler

**Zoom Coordinator:** Elaine at 415-305-2220 or

[elainebutler124@comcast.net](mailto:elainebutler124@comcast.net)

## Lunch Bunch

Welcome back to all of you who have patiently waited to return to our monthly lunch conversation.

**When:** Wednesday, November 17 at noon

**Where:** Pacific Catch

1200 Ninth Avenue

(corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave and Lincoln Way)

**Must be vaccinated!**

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

## Webinars at AAUW National and AAUW California

Check out these worthwhile webinars:

### Women in STEM: Monday, November 8, 1:00 PM PT

Presented by national AAUW, a distinguished panel of STEM women leaders is moderated by Leshell Hatley, AAUW's new Director for STEM Programs.

To register: [Link](#)

### AAUW Fund Event: Sunday, November 7, 1:00 PM PT

If you haven't attended any of the AAUW Fund events so far, you still have one more opportunity. This year California has 37 AAUW Fellows and grant recipients. Several of them will be giving an overview of their work in 5-7 minutes each. Among them, they cover a wide range of topics and have fascinating stories to tell. Presented by AAUW California.

To register: [Link](#)

## Finders Keepers: Recruiting and Retaining Members

**Thursday, November 11, 7:00 PM**

Attend this webinar to explore new and creative ideas from successful branches for finding and keeping our best asset! Presented by AAUW California board directors Sharyn Siebert and Carol Holzgrafe.

To register: [Link](#)

Remember that if you can't make it to a webinar, the recording will be available. You can check out past recordings for National AAUW webinars [HERE](#) and for AAUW California [HERE](#)

*Roli Wendorf*

## Tech Trek

Tech Trek plans to have camp on campuses during the summer on 2022. We will be contacting 7th grade science teachers this month. If you know any science or math teachers in San Francisco Schools, please let me know.

**Elaine Butler**, Tech Trek Coordinator, SF Branch

## TTAG NETWORKING EVENT and DOCUMENTARY DISCUSSION

The Roman Stoic philosopher Lucius Annaeus Seneca said "It is quality rather than quantity that matters". The TTAG\* Networking Event that took place on Saturday, October 23, from noon to 1:00 PM was true to that quote. While the event was attended by a handful of people, it was an exciting,

open, and productive discussion from women across the ages.

The online event was not your regular workshop; rather, a networking event for TTAG members to get to know each other while meeting around a documentary discussion. Participants were invited to watch beforehand *“Not the Science Type”* (see link below\*\*) a documentary featuring four inspiring women scientists who are challenging race and gender stereotypes in different fields of science.

Gitanjali Rao, a 15-year-old inventor, America’s Top Young Scientist 2017 and TIME’s Kid of the Year 2020, learned to tinker with the science kit her uncle gave her when she was four years old. She created over 10 innovations, some of which turned into real prototypes, from a device measuring the presence of lead in water to another measuring opioid prescription drugs.

Dr. Ciara Sivels, first Black woman to earn a PhD in nuclear engineering from the University of Michigan, was inspired by a high school chemistry teacher who kept pushing her own dreams. She eventually applied and was admitted to MIT, and now she is giving back as a mentor to tell Black girls that no goal or dream is too big.

Dr. Jessica Taaffe’s challenge was navigating the atypical science career path, from lab bench to global health, while preserving her Latina cultural background and heritage. Her hope for the future is a world where diversity of expression, personality, and culture is not only tolerated but also appreciated.

Dr. Jayshree Seth, who grew up in a highly-educated family in India, was destined to become an engineer. She discovered gender bias as she pursued her PhD in the US, being the only woman in a class of 15. She eventually achieved a very successful career in industry as a chemical engineer developing numerous patents.

Gitanjali, Ciara, Jessica and Jayshree are all bound by the common experience of feeling singled out, not the mainstream type. Yet, it is in the struggle against stereotypes, whether age, race, gender or cultural background, that they find their unique authentic self. They work hard at nailing down their career path in science until “it just clicks: you know you are doing what you are supposed to be doing”. And last but not least, they all want to make the world a better place and strongly believe that science is a force for good in the world.



The event host was **Angelica Grace Lee, Tech Trek Alumna 2013** and first-year Law student at UC Hastings College of the Law in the City. From an early interest in forensic sciences, Angelica will likely move into Tech Law, which encompasses intellectual property, privacy issues and cybersecurity. Angelica shared college preparation tips with **Lexian Nguyen**, TTAG Newsletter Intern and junior student at Lowell High School. After a

pictionary icebreaker organized by Angelica and using STEM-related words, participants delved deeper into a conversation around three major themes weaving through the documentary: Stereotypes, Career Path, and Science and Society.

Access to STEM resources (i.e. people in STEM and STEM content) and exposure to STEM opportunities are critical to engage girls and young women in science careers. While Lowell stands out for the extent of STEM programmatic offerings, many other public schools in San Francisco don't rate as high. It is the goal of the TTAG Program to supplement the exposure to STEM that students receive from their own school, family or social environment. If we want to serve through an equity lens, we need to ensure that Tech Trek is brought to those students who really need a Tech Trek experience.

As to our TTAG events, we hope that, with time, more TTAG members will be able to join and benefit from it. Right now, in the early days of TTAG, focusing on quality over quantity is an accomplishment in its own right.

**Rosaura P.C. Valle, PhD**

**TTAG Committee Lead**

\*TTAG: Tech Trek Alumnae Group

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgHloyZjMCI>

## Pat Camarena



## "Gertrude.....More Than Meets the Eye"

Growing up in the lap of luxury during the last quarter of the 19th century, New Yorker Gertrude lived in an elegant Fifth Avenue mansion and spent many summers in the family's summer mansion in Newport, Rhode Island. Many girls of her social class looked forward to marrying well and leading an active social life and possibly hosting events benefiting various cultural causes. Life had additional plans for Gertrude. As a teenager she had shown a flair for drawing and painting. While visiting Europe in the early 1900s, Gertrude discovered the developing Parisian art world of Montmartre and Monparnasse. Her latent creative instincts began to emerge. Gertrude was to become a gifted sculptor. She studied in New York at the Art Students League. In Paris, Auguste Rodin became her mentor. Her training with sculptors of public monuments influenced her later direction. One of her early works was exhibited at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo under an

assumed name. She was afraid initially that her social status would prevent her from being considered a serious artist. Neither her family or her wealthy socialite husband were very supportive of her efforts. She believed that if she had been a man she would have been taken much more seriously. Eventually she got her own apartment and studios both in Greenwich Village and Paris. She began to exhibit her work under her own name including showing at the exclusive Paris Salon. She was awarded a bronze medal at the San Francisco World's Fair Exhibition in 1915. She had her own show in New York City in 1916.

World War 1 found her back in France where she established and ran a fully operational hospital outside of Paris for wounded soldiers. While there she had many opportunities to sketch the hospitalized soldiers. These sketches she was to later use to sculpt smaller pieces realistically depicting soldiers in wartime. In 1930 all the artwork of her friends and contemporaries that she had been able to afford to collect over the years became the basis of the Whitney Museum of American Art on the east side of Manhattan. Yes, this rich very talented socialite sculptor was Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney. Some of us may remember her today also as the aunt of Gloria Vanderbilt, the future artist, founder of a jeans empire, and mother of CNN newsman Anderson Cooper. Gertrude herself was an incredibly talented woman in her own right and left an indelible mark on the New York City art community.

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

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

[www.nytimes.com/2021](http://www.nytimes.com/2021)

### November Birthdays

Mattie Alperton	November 1
Sandra Martino	November 5
Sherry Bridygham	November 8
Anna Yang	November 19
Roli Wendorf	November 19
Andrea Laudate	November 26
Kelly Joseph	November 29
Beth Wells	November 30



**AAUWSF Board**

Contact us:

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

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**November 2021**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 TTAG Committee Meeting 7:00 PM	4	5	6 Membership Committee 10 AM
7	8	9	10 Board Meeting 7PM	11	12	13
14	15 Int'l Books 7:00 PM	16	17 Lunch Bunch 12 noon	18 Mystery/Adv 7:30PM	19 Afternoon w/ Books 1:30 PM	20
21	22	23	24	25 THANKSGIVING	26	27
28	29	30	31			

*If everyone is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking.*

George S. Patton, Jr.



**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 Play 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.