



**President’s Message**

***Rest in Peace RBG***

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s death was a stunning blow to women’s rights. It was also a personal blow for me. I was in law school when Justice Ginsburg was litigating her ground-breaking cases. Until the 1970’s women could not get credit on their own, and if they were married, their husband had control of their community property. We have come a long way, but there is so much more to do to close the pay gap. As Senator Edward Kennedy often said: “The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die.” In addition to her skill as a gender equality warrior, Justice Ginsburg was remarkable in her ability to separate her legal views from her personal relationships. Civility is sadly falling by the wayside. Graceful acceptance of differences is important, and I hope we will all strive to accomplish this.

***AAUW Funds Luncheons***

The traditional AAUW Funds luncheons held in October will be virtual this year and without lunch. On October 10 and October 24, at 1:00 pm, the 2020-2021 AAUW California Fellows and grant recipients will showcase their studies and goals for the year. There is no charge to participate, but you must register at the AAUW-CA. org website.

***AAUW Five-Star National Program***

The national AAUW office has established a Five-Star Program for recognizing branches that have

aligned their efforts with the AAUW strategic plan and other initiatives that foster the organization’s mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. Our board has decided that we can satisfy the requirements for obtaining three stars: (1) Hosting 2-4 strategic plan-related programs open to the public; (2) \$30 per capita (member) gift raised for greatest needs, and retaining 90% or more of our branch membership with dues submitted by September 30; (3) References to Work Smart online and economic security focus on our website and social media. We will let you know about our progress.

***Webinars***

Both the state and national AAUW organizations have been conducting monthly webinars that are open to all members. They are listed on the respective websites and require only that you register for them. It is a way to stay connected.

Please stay well and upbeat!

**Barbara Spenser, Co-President**

**“One Book, One Branch”**

Our board has selected a book to read as a branch, as part of our continuing conversations on social justice issues. It’s important to know our history and the foundation of our country. We must continue to have uncomfortable conversations so we may grow and learn from each other.

We have selected “Caste, the Origins of our Discontents” by Isabel Wilkerson. This book is a

New York Times best seller and selected for Oprah's Book Club in 2020. Ms. Wilkerson is a Pulitzer Prize winner. This book is available from several online sellers: Goodread, Amazon, AppleBooks, GoogleBooks, Audible, and Target. You may also check with your local library.

The book has 7 parts which we will discuss during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. I will lead our first discussion on the first two parts of the book on November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m. via Zoom. We will rotate hosts throughout the year.

We look forward to your participation.

In health & wellness,

**Kelly Joseph, Co-President**

p.s. I have the permission of artist Sarah Hedlund to publish her graphic in our newsletter. Please VOTE!



### Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for: **October 14, 2020 at 7 P.M. via Zoom**. All members are welcome to attend. Contact Barbara for details.

### Ballot Issues Night with Joel Engardio

Date: **Monday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

Joel will review the issues on the November 3 ballot by Zoom meeting

**AAUW members will receive an email invitation on October 19, 2020**

Contact Sheila at 415-823-09610 or [wawonast@earthlink.net](mailto:wawonast@earthlink.net)

### Afternoons With Books

**When: Friday, October 16, at 2:00 pm**

**Where:** On Zoom

**Book/Author:** Crossing to Safety, by Wallace Steger

**Presenter and Hostess:** Mary Suter

**If you would like join us please contact** Mary at [marsuter@yahoo.com](mailto:marsuter@yahoo.com); or 415-314-6893

### International Book Group

**When: Monday October 26, at 7:00 pm**

**Where:** On Zoom

**Book:** Furious Hours, by Casey Cap

**Hostess/Zoom Coordinator:** Barbara Spencer

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

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

### Mystery/Adventure

**Date: October 22, at 7:30 pm**

**Where:** On Zoom

**Book:** A Home Without Windows, by Nadia Hashemi

**Reviewer:** Roli

**RSVP:** Elaine at [ElaineButler124@comcast.net](mailto:ElaineButler124@comcast.net)

## Lunch Bunch

**When: Wednesday, October 21, at noon**

**Where:** On Zoom. Bring your lunch, since we can't eat out.

**Who:** All SF AAUW members and friends. A great way to both eat, and chat with others during these days of sheltering at home.

## Tech Trek

AAUW National announced that in the 2021 season, Tech Trek camps in all states must be delivered on a virtual platform. This decision was made due to the many unknowns and changing regulations, which are happening so rapidly that in-person events can not be advised this far in advance.

They also advised that all states should delay student recruitment until further into 2021.

As announced in prior communications, since the cancellation of our 2020 season, California Tech Trek has been working on alternative solutions, which includes a fully tested virtual platform option designed and implemented by our UC San Diego camp director. In addition, our delay of the student selection process to January 2021 aligns with the National decision.

While this announcement is certainly a disappointment, but not a surprise given the pandemic still actively impacting our country, the California Tech Trek Program leaders are fully prepared to continue the Tech Trek tradition by providing selected campers with a stimulating, fun and rewarding STEM virtual experience.

Rest assured that when the time is right, our goal is a return to the residential Tech Trek camp model

that since 1998, has been AAUW California's premier STEM camp legacy.

California Tech Trek will not go dark in 2021 - we're looking forward - and we appreciate your support and enthusiasm!

**Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator**

## Voting is Crucial

Every registered voter in California will receive a ballot in the mail. The ballots will be delivered to the post office on October 5, so watch for them. The deadline to register online to vote is October 19 for the November 3, 2020 election. If you vote by mail, be sure to mail your ballot in time. In California, ballots must be postmarked by November 3 in order to be counted.

There will still be polling places to vote in person. The information on polling places will be released later. Early voting in person may be done at the outdoor area in front of Bill Graham Civic Auditorium on 99 Grove Street, San Francisco, from October 5 to November 3. You may drop off your vote-by-mail ballot there, register to vote, or cast a ballot in person. For more information see [www.sfelections.org](http://www.sfelections.org) or [www.sfvote@sfgov.org](mailto:www.sfvote@sfgov.org).

## Equal Rights Advocates

### **ANNUAL GALA! November 13,2020**

Join the virtual gathering to celebrate the women and gender-expansive workers, students, activists, and leaders who are making 2020 such a significant year in our nation's journey toward true racial equity and gender justice.

This year's Gala celebrates the theme #WeAreEssential, and features keynote speaker **Megan Rapinoe** (US Women's National Soccer Team), Mayor **London Breed**, other special guests and gender justice advocates across the country for this online gathering on Nov.13, just days after the 2020 election.

For additional information contact them at [www.equalrites.org](http://www.equalrites.org)

### Work Smart and Webinars in October

A Work Smart salary negotiation workshop was held by Zoom on September 15, organized by the FRIENDS of the Commission on the Status of Women, San Francisco. The workshop was presented by AAUW national and funded by our branch. It went off very well with over 100 attendees. We can be proud of having funded a very worthwhile cause. The next workshop in the series, also funded by our branch, is expected to be presented in late October.

AAUW California as well as national have been presenting a number of very worthwhile webinars. Recordings of all previous webinars are available at their respective websites. Upcoming webinars from state in October in addition to the two AAUW Funds Luncheon webinars are:

- **Increasing Gender Diversity on the Boards of Nonprofit Organizations (October 12 at 4PM):** There is a serious gender gap, particularly for women of color, on the governing boards of higher education and healthcare institutions. Our speakers co-authored a recently published national study on this subject. [Registration link.](#)
- **Why Public Policy Matters (October 28 at 7PM):** This workshop is for branches whose members are doing no or little public policy work; who do not have a public policy chair or

committee; and who want to learn how to encourage members to engage in public policy projects, how to garner ideas for projects, and how to use public policy to attract new members.

[Registration link.](#)

*Roli Wendorf*

### 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](mailto:marleneford@yahoo.com)

### Resource List

#### TRADES

##### PLUMBER:

One Source Plumbing: 415-750-3646, recommended 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



### A Gilded Age Joan of Arc

“Wall Street owns the country. It is no longer a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, but a government for Wall Street, by Wall Street, and for Wall Street. The great common people of this country are slaves, and monopoly is the master...Let the bloodhounds of money who have dogged us thus far beware.”

Question: What might be the name of the well-known woman who spoke the above words? She is known as a woman who often rubbed her contemporaries the wrong way but could be counted on to be true to her beliefs. Could she be Eleanor Roosevelt, Elizabeth Warren, or .....Mary Elizabeth Lease? Perhaps all of them could be described as equally tenacious..but this story will be about the least known of the three women named above. Yes...Mary Elizabeth Lease was her name, often referred to as the Kansas Joan of Arc.

Mary Elizabeth’s path in life was shaped by her early experiences living in severe economic straits. Her father died in a Union prisoner of war camp during the Civil War plunging the family into destitution. After her early marriage, her pharmacist husband bounced from job to job and from Kansas to Texas and back. Mary had to take in laundry to supplement her meager teaching salary. The financial panic of 1873 reduced the struggling family to poverty. After earning a law degree, she began to take a leading role in civic and social activities. Mary began giving speeches for the local temperance union and soon discovered her talent as an orator. She gradually became a labor organizer and a woman’s suffrage advocate. She identified with the plight of the midwestern farmers whom she believed were being taken advantage of by railroad and grain market monopolies. Her early experiences with poverty greatly influenced her subsequent speeches and writings. She believed that big business had made American workers into “wage slaves”. Her speaking tours throughout the middle west and beyond attracted thousands of attendees. She was one of the first female candidates to run for a major office when she ran for the United States Senate from Kansas in 1883. Although her campaign was unsuccessful, she now had genuine political credentials. Mary became well known for her impassioned controversial speeches. Her strong interests did not limit her even though she often clashed with other leaders including those of the short lived Populist Party of the 1890s. She gave a great many fiery speeches for the cause of prohibition, women’s suffrage, and Irish nationalism.

After the turn of the century, she was hired as a political writer for Joseph Pulitzer’s New York World. Spending the rest of her life in the New York area, she campaigned for Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive Party in 1912 and served as president of the National Society for Birth Control.

Mary Elizabeth was never as popular in the east. To some the vehemence of her conviction, made them reluctant to join her. She bumped heads with other movers and shakers even within her own causes. Though not a team player or a thoughtful strategist, she was capable of departing far from her natural alliances. Nonetheless, her lively speaking ability was much admired by both men and women in politics. She demonstrated the possibilities for women in politics far earlier than most. She lived long enough to see the final success of the suffrage movement.

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/video](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/video), (American Experience)  
[www.tshaonline.org](http://www.tshaonline.org)  
[www.acatholicmission.org](http://www.acatholicmission.org)

### October Birthdays

Carol Robinson	October 1
Cathy Corcoran	October 3
Harriet Sollod	October 10
Michelle Mammini	October 13
Esther Wong	October 21
Patricia Spencer	October 27
Leslie Yuan	October 27

#### **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

It has been harder for us this month, with the fires causing poor air quality, limiting our time outdoors. However, we now have more dining options, small group meetings, and in person religious services opening up. 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 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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Tech Trek

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Program VP

Kelly Joseph

Roli Wendoff

**October 2020**

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

*He who fights with monsters might take care lest he thereby become a monster.*

Friedrich Nietzsche



**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.