

### President's Message



We've had an impactful month and there's a lot for us to improve upon.

We are grateful to have had a terrific conversation with **Cathy Corcoran**, our former branch President. We discussed Covid-19, Black Lives Matter and Social Issues from her perspective of a person now back home in Ireland. We learned how these issues have been handled which is so different than we have here in the United States. Ireland has taken care of their citizens by providing subsidized salary replacement and providing basic healthcare. We discussed gay marriage, abortions and Brexit.

AAUW President, **Kim Churches** spoke at the Policy v. Practice 1920 – Present: Continuing the Fight for Equity webinar on August 25th, on the fact that we need to reflect on our own policies and practices and be open and supportive to all women. I was shocked to hear that the average age of AAUW members is 72. The fact that the membership lacks diversity was no surprise. Kim Churches mentioned how AAUW was not inclusive of women of color when women got the right to vote

in 1920. Black Women gained the right to vote in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Per CNN, “ {Jacob} Blake, an unarmed Black man, was [shot multiple times in the back by police](#) as he entered an SUV in Kenosha, Wisconsin. His three children aged three, five and eight were in the car, according to a family attorney.” Blake was breaking up a fight between two women. This is why we need to continue having uncomfortable and difficult conversations and own our biases and issues.

Remember that your VOTE counts. If you need to register, please click this link:

<https://www.vote.org/register-to-vote/california/>

If you're already registered, click on the Menu button on the top right side, next to the Donate button to understand how to mail in your ballot. Vote early. We have more than earned that right!

Looking forward to further conversations.  
Be open to change.

Stay safe and be healthy!

**Kelly Joseph, Co-President**

### Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for: **September 9, 2020 at 7 P.M. via Zoom.** All members are welcome to attend. Contact Barbara for details.

## Afternoons With Books

**When:** Friday, September 18, at 2:00 pm

**Where:** On Zoom

We will be discussing and voting on our book selections for the next year.

Please send your recommendations to Michelle [mmammini@pacbell.net](mailto:mmammini@pacbell.net) at least a week before the meeting. You may also share with the rest of the group prior to the meeting.

## Lunch Bunch

**When:** Wednesday, September 16, 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 being safe by sheltering at home.

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

## International Book Group

**When:** Monday September 21, at 7:00 pm

**Where:** On Zoom

**Book:** *The Salarymen's Wife*, by Sujata Massey

**Hostess/Zoom Coordinator:** Barbara Spencer

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

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

## Mystery/Adventure

**Date:** September 24, at 7:00 pm

**This is our planning meeting.**

**We will once again be meeting via Zoom.**

We need to choose 11 books. We are expecting you to email your choices to Susan Peliks, before the next meeting.

Please download and use her form,

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

New members are encouraged to join us.

Thank you for hanging in there .

**Location:** On Zoom

Contact Elaine at [ElaineButler124@comcast.net](mailto:ElaineButler124@comcast.net) for the Zoom link.

## 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).

## Save the Date

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

### Ballot Issues with Joel Engardio

Joel will review the issues on the November 3 ballot. This will be a Zoom meeting. Details will follow

## Work Smart on Zoom Now

You may be aware that AAUW is partnering with FRIENDS of the Commission on the Status of Women since 2017 to deliver AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation workshops to women in San Francisco. Before the pandemic, they were delivered as in-person workshops, which has not been possible since.

These free workshops will resume this month on Zoom! The next workshop webinar will be held on September 15th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. To register, click [here](#). This workshop is funded by our branch, so please ensure a good attendance by passing on the registration information to friends and family members who can benefit from it.

Also, remember that our free online self-paced workshops are always available on the [AAUW website](#).

## Silver Jubilee

Once again, it is my pleasure to introduce you to our four Silver Jubilee Scholarship Recipients. These deserving students are working for their degrees. Our scholarship of \$2000 for each student eases their way to their academic goals. They are:



**Nicole Gluckman** is a returning student after two decades. She is currently enrolled in SFSU to receive her bachelor of arts in Theatre Arts. Through enrollment at SFSU she has found a new field of dramaturgy. This would work as literary manager, script developer, production researcher and contextualize the play for the cast. Again, this would help her be a theatre critic, awards adjudicator, and independent researcher. She has had many jobs throughout the years to prepare her for this major. With this degree it will give her the ability to analyze any situation, make do with limitations, and collaborate with others. She is confident that her ability will be able to think outside of the traditional box which will be essential to the future art form.



**Shawn Gardner** is a senior student at the Academy of Art University to receive her BFA in photography in 2020. Her focus is to become a professional photographer with her passion of creating sports themes portraiture by starting her own business. Starting with her children's sports she has multiple connections by cultivating relations with potential clients. She looks forward to doing all she has learned to work in reaching her goal. She sent several photos to show she will specialize in action photography.



**Brook Davidson** is currently attending SFSU to receive her bachelor of science in interior design. She has joined the American Society of Interior Designers and the US Green Building Council. She wants to enrich her education and to learn how to make interior design sustainable in buildings. Brook is in need of closer housing as she has a two hour commute. She has a job but expenses have increased significantly.

**Oluwasholabomi Afolabi** is currently attending the masters of science in Business Analytics program at SFSU. Her undergraduate degree was in chemical engineering. She is most interested in analytics to develop her business-making skills and innovative technology. She has worked for Russel Smith (Nigerian company) as a project manager in chemical engineering by investigating and analyzing site mission-critical-metrics for infrastructure services. With her masters in analytics she wants to work in the field of health analytics and robotics.

**Mary Suter**, Silver Jubilee Scholarship Co-Ordinator

### **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 at [marlene.casey@yahoo.com](mailto:marlene.casey@yahoo.com) with your list of mobility aids and referrals.

## 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



## AN ODE TO AMERICA

A tiny ethnic population among a minority people gave birth to Emma Lazarus in 1849. Emma was a descendant of Sephardic Jews. Even though her family had come to the New World from Portugal in the 1600s, she was Jewish and would never feel a part of the nineteenth-century American society that was so completely dominated by Protestants. Ironically, this dichotomy would lead to her lasting imprint on our society.

Verbally gifted from an early age, she lived her entire, although short, life in New York. Her affluent family allowed her no formal schooling, however she was provided with a rich cultural education, especially in languages. Emma was especially drawn to poetry. She published her first works while still in her teens and counted Emerson and James among her literary mentors. A novel, a play, and other prose were soon to bring her critical and popular acclaim in her twenties and early thirties.

When massive waves of Jewish immigrants began arriving in the 1880s, Emma was in her early thirties. She found herself reasserting a Jewish heritage that she had not thought particularly important previously. Her feelings were expressed in a poetry collection and a play focused on the sufferings of medieval Jews.

The most famous of her works, however, was a poem written about all immigrants. She composed it to benefit the fund for construction of the base of the “**New Colossus**” ... a statue gifted to the U.S. by the French, to commemorate their lasting friendship with America. Emma’s poem was so instantly popular that it was chosen to be inscribed on the American built base. Less than two years later the statue had been installed, the poem inscribed on a bronze plaque inside of the base. The statue quickly became better known as

The Statue of Liberty. Anyone who has ever visited Liberty Island can read Emma’s well known poem that features these closing lines that still resonate with our immigrant roots so many years later: “Give me your tired, your poor/Your huddled masses yearning to be breathe free/The wretched refuse of your teeming shore/Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed, to me/I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”.

Emma’s original intent was to portray America as a beacon of promise, beckoning immigrants to embrace a new land and all it offers. Today the opportunity that America affords, and who is worthy, is being hotly debated by politicians.

[www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)  
[www.womenshistory.org](http://www.womenshistory.org)  
[www.libertystatepark.com](http://www.libertystatepark.com)

### September Birthdays

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Oak Byeol Sao    | September 1  |
| Barbara Spencer  | September 11 |
| Nora Lee         | September 18 |
| Mary Worth       | September 18 |
| Pat Metzgar      | September 21 |
| Kathleen Kennedy | September 23 |
| Janice Gonsalves | September 24 |
| Mardi Kildebeck  | September 25 |
| Jane Hansen      | September 30 |

#### **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. We all look forward to thing improving. Until such time, we must be creative and do more Zoom meetings, listen to more podcasts, and start new projects (if you have completed the old ones!

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

If you feel lonely and need to talk to someone, there 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. 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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Kelly Joseph

Treasurer

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**September 2020**

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

*We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.*

Robert Louis Stevenson



**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.