

Month at a Glance

October 4, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee meeting

- Contact: Rosaura Valle

October 9, 7:00 p.m.

International Book Group – via ZOOM and IN PERSON

- Book: The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman
- Location: 1723 42nd Ave., SF 94122
- Hostess/RSVP: Sherry Bridygham
- Zoom: Barbara Spencer
- Please note this meeting will be on the **second Monday of October**

October 18, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch– IN PERSON

- Location: DAMN FINE PIZZA , 3410 JUDAH near 39th Ave.
- Hostess/RSVP: Mary Suter

October 18, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Roli Wendorf

October 20, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – IN PERSON

- Book: The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
- Contact/Coordinator: Michelle Mammini

October 23, 7:00 p.m.

DEI Film The Revolution Generation

- Location: Mary Renner's Residency
- Contact/RSVP: Kelly Joseph

Co-President Message

Congratulations

Kudos to our newly recognized 50-year honorary life members: Elaine Butler, Harriet Sollod, and Lucretia Axtell. They are no longer required to pay dues! We are grateful to have such loyal members.

Tech Trek

We sent 15 girls to camp this summer. Our Welcome Back Party for them and their families was held on September 10 at the Sports Basement on Bryant Street. Our TTAG (Tech Trek Alumnae Group) members played a big part in organizing the event, along with the invaluable assistance of Rosaura Valle. The parents who attended were very enthusiastic about their daughters' experience. We hope that our pitch to them about AAUW will result in some new members. Our branch Tech Trek Committee had its initial meeting on September 13. We discussed the anticipated calendar of events and signed up for the various tasks

that will arise. It's a pleasure to have such enthusiastic and willing committee members.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

The kick-off event for this year is the in-person viewing of the film The Revolution Generation at Mary Renner's house. October 23 is the date at 7 pm. We will have a discussion after the movie. Maybe there will be popcorn! Please contact Kelly Joseph for more details and Mary Renner to RSVP.

Professional Networking Group

The initial meeting of our anticipated new group was held on Zoom on September 30 at 10 am. Due to Avanti printing deadlines I can't tell you how the meeting went. The group's focus will be on issues relating to women in the workforce.

Dr. Tiffany Caesar November 14 Zoom Talk

Dr. Tiffany Caesar, a new member of our branch and an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at San Francisco State University, has agreed to give a talk on her work as a Black Woman's Archivist. Dr. Caesar will share her journey in writing her upcoming book *Archiving Africana Women Stories: African Centered Education in South Africa and Detroit*. The book manuscript surveys black women's roles and experiences in various forms of leadership in African Centered Institutions and the ways in which black women preserve their histories. Be sure to mark the date and time of this event: Tuesday, November 14, 7pm on zoom. We are very excited about hearing from Dr. Tiffany Caesar!

Membership Renewal

Please keep those renewals coming. Remember that if you have trouble navigating the aauw.org website, you can always write a check for \$93 made payable to AAUW-SF and mail it to P.O. Box 31405, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President**Tech Trek**

The 2023 Tech Trek camp season comes to an end. We welcomed back Tech Trekkers on September 10 at the Sports Basement. Seven out of 14 campers attended with their families. While all three camps, including the virtual camp were represented, we had most attendees from the Fresno camp. Parents shared their campers' experiences with our branch members, while the campers themselves talked to our TTAG students. The atmosphere was very positive.

The planning for the 2024 camps has already begun. We held our first meeting with the newly formed Tech Trek Committee. We are happy to report that some donations are flowing in. We are already one-third of the way there. We look forward to additional donations to meet our target to support 15 Tech Trekkers.

**Roli Wendorf, Co-President & Tech Trek Committee Coordinator****TTAG of the FUTURE**

Last year a significant effort was undertaken by the TechTrek Leadership at state level: a group of AAUW Advisors and Tech Trek Alumnae (TTA) from different CA branches worked together in developing a set of resources to support local branches in creating their own local Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG). Officially, this effort acknowledges the existence of post-TechTrek programs in 20 or so branches throughout CA,

and the relevance of these programs in providing lasting impact to the Tech Trek program itself.

Since 2019, our San Francisco branch has been one of the CA branches with a program designed to support TTA in their pursuit of STEM. With Mary Renner, we launched the TTAG program, a combination of in person events and online workshops with highlights such as women in STEM panels, visits to the Exploratorium and exhibiting at the Bay Area Science Festival, to name a few (for a full list, check out our TTAG page at: sanfrancisco-ca.net)

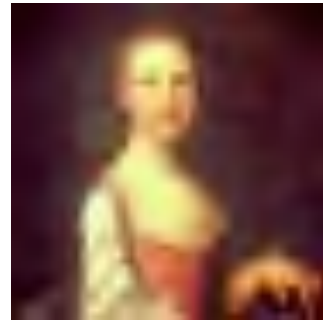
Recognizing that student-led programs offer unique benefits to the participating students, this summer, our two TTAG interns, Azelea and Sonia, laid the foundations of the TTAG of the Future. With the example of the “original” South Bay L.A. TTAG group (with whom we partnered in several instances through the year), our de-facto co-Presidents planned the recruitment of a board of TTA, using the Tech Trek Welcome Back Party as pivotal event to promote this launch. They defined the desired Board positions and created a google form to recruit additional Board Members from the pool of TTAG, with the goal of inviting students from different grades to ensure continuity of the Board functions. In addition, Sonia has taken the lead of the TTAG Newsletter and Azelea that of the Tech Trek Ambassador program at AP Giannini, which she attended in middle school.

A student-led group also offers participating TTA the opportunity to develop skills such as event planning, public speaking, team working and leadership, as well as accountability, commitment and, in a nutshell, professionalism. At a time where college applications are highly competitive, TTAs will ultimately stand out, as they are part of a tight-knit group benefiting from the guidance and support of AAUW members as Advisors, who naturally become their mentors.

We are excited to see how the group moves forward this year. In the meantime we wish Sonia and Azelea plenty of success and enjoyment in the process.

Rosaura Valle, TTAG Coordinator

Flexing Her Power



It is a fact that although women had varying degrees of property rights and financial freedoms throughout history, it was technically legal for banks to refuse loans and credit to unmarried women (or require a husband's permission for married applicants) until the Equal Credit Opportunity Act was passed in 1974. This fact makes it all the more amazing to consider the achievements of Margaret Brent of Maryland in the mid-1600s. Although of noble birth and a descendant of royalty, Margaret was also one of thirteen children in her Catholic household. English inheritance law allowed relatively little for her. In 1638, she emigrated to the newly founded Maryland colony along with other family members and even some household servants. The Maryland colony had begun as a haven for Catholics attempting to escape religious persecution. **Although Maryland was an early pioneer of religious tolerance in the British colonies, religious strife between Anglicans, Puritans, Catholics, and Quakers was common in the early years.** A grant from Lord Baltimore, proprietor of the colony, provided Margaret Brent with land, and through steady acquisition, she ultimately became one of the largest property owners in the area. That she remained single is a testament to her independence, for men greatly outnumbered women in the new colony. She did not lack for suitors. Margaret Brent became a close ally of Maryland's governor. She helped him raise an army to support him in civil strife with Protestant settlers.. He repaid her by naming her executor of his will when he died in 1647. This was an uncommon display of confidence in a woman at that time. She solved the vexing problem of paying off his soldiers by extending her powers as executor to

include the power of attorney and began selling off some of Lord Baltimore's own assets while he was in England. Even though he was outraged when he found out, the legislators in Maryland praised her for her skills in defusing the problem with the unpaid soldiers very diplomatically. Violence was prevented by her actions. Never marrying, she lived prosperously for the rest of her life, passing on about one hundred years before the Revolutionary War.

Though feminists today sometimes name Margareat Brent as an early lawyer because she appeared in court and exercised powers of attorney, this activity was not in the role of a lawyer for hire, but was instead a personal appearance in the interests of her own property and that of the Catholic state of Maryland. Not an ideological feminist, but rather a religious and financial conservative, she should be remembered instead for her exceptionally successful demonstration of women's business and political abilities almost 400 years ago.

- www.enclclopediavirginia.org
- www.womenhistoryblog.com
- www.brooklynmuseum.org

Pat Camerena

October Birthdays



| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Carol Robinson | October 1 |
| Cathy Corcoran | October 3 |
| Mary Jane Mikuriya | October 8 |
| Harriet Sollod | October 10 |
| Michelle Mammini | October 13 |
| Susan Pollack | October 16 |
| Esther Wong | October 23 |
| Patricia Spencer | October 27 |
| Leslie Yuan | October 27 |

AAUWSF Board

Contact Us:

aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

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Roli Wendorf

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Tech Trek Coordinator

Barbara Spencer
Roli Wendorf

**Tech Trek Alumnae Group
(TTAG) Coordinator**

Rosaura Valle

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
(DEI) Coordinator:**

Kelly Joseph

If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.



Martin Luther King 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 equality 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 <https://sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net>



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.