



empowering women since 1881

# AVANTI

sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net

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January 2024

## Month at a Glance

### **January 3, 7:30 p.m.**

TTAG Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Rosaura Valle

### **January 8, 7:00 p.m.**

AAUW Board Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Barbara Spencer

### **January 10, 7:00 p.m.**

Tech Trek Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Roli Wendorf

### **January 15, 7:00 p.m.**

International Book Group

- Book: [The Mountains Sing](#) by Nguyen Phan Que Mai
- Location: 2901 Broderick Street
- RSVP: Mary Graves

### **January 17, 12:00 p.m.**

Lunch Bunch

- Location: Green's Restaurant, 2 Marina Blvd. Ste A, Fort Mason, SF, CA 941123
  - 415-771-6222
- What: Mediterranean and Vegetarian
- RSVP: Mary Suter

### **January 19, 1:30 p.m.**

Friday Afternoon Book Group – IN PERSON

- Book: [Factory Girls](#) by Leslie Chang
- Location: Anni Puckett (Stroh)'s Home  
22 Hancock Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
- Contact/Coordinator: Michelle Mammini

### **January 25, 7:30 p.m.**

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: [All That is Hidden](#) by Rhys Bowen & Clare Broyles
- Discussion Leader: Susan S
- RSVP: Elaine Butler

### **January 27, 10:00 a.m.**

Women's Professional Networking Event – via ZOOM

## Co-President Message

Wish you all a very happy and healthy new year! We hope you had a joyful holiday season with family and friends. The branch holiday brunch at Mission Rock Resort was enjoyable for those who were able to make it. We were lucky to have a gorgeous, sunny day with a spectacular view of the bay. However, several of those who signed up had to drop out at the last minute due to Covid infections and other issues.

A warm welcome to our three members – Tracey Harding, Catherine Muriel, and Lisa Wilcox Corning – who have joined us in the last couple of months. We hope to see them join several of our branch's ongoing activities.

## Tech Trek

Our Tech Trek activities for the 2024 camps are coming along well. We are getting to start receiving nominations for potential campers from schools in January. We are still looking for more donations to fund the camps. If interested in helping, please make your check out to "AAUW CA SPF" and mail it to the branch postal address: AAUW San Francisco, CA 94131-0405.

## Women's Professional Networking Group Event

Our next session is coming up! It will be held on Saturday, January 27 at 10:00 AM on Zoom. Our own Kelly Joseph will lead a discussion on AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation and how to build a professional network.

These issues are so important for fair treatment and success in the workplace.

To get the most out of the session, we recommend that attendees complete the online AAUW Work Smart workshop available [HERE](#). Also, please watch the recording of a prior AAUW webinar networking [HERE](#). The webinar is a bit dated, but gives several good ideas about professional networking. If you are interested in joining this group, email [aauwsfbranch@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsfbranch@gmail.com) to get on the mailing list.

**Roli Wendorf, Co-President**

### **Lobby Days 2024 – Save the Date!**

Mark your calendars! AAUW California will hold our 2024 Lobby Days event on April 2 and 3, 2024. An interest survey including a registration form will arrive in your inbox mid-January. Please be sure to complete and return the form to be added to the communications list for the event.

We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this act of advocacy that is essential for achievement of our legislative priorities. In addition to our members, we plan to invite college students to join the event. Their participation will enable us to reach more legislative offices, and we hope that this introduction to our organization will inspire these advocacy-minded young people who share our values to join AAUW.

Starting in January, our committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security for All Women, Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students, Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society, and Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles. In early March, our committee will meet to discuss our evaluations and select 30-35 bills for our 2024 Legislative Agenda that best represent our priorities. We will also choose the top 3 bills to advocate for during Lobby Days.

Lobby Days 2024 is scheduled to take place when the legislature returns to session after their Easter break, and will span two days to provide flexibility so that we can secure as many meetings as possible. We are planning a hybrid event with meetings scheduled virtually over Zoom as well as in-person at the Capitol. Members who live in and around Sacramento will have the option to participate in person. Legislative offices are equally willing to meet virtually or in person, and the virtual option makes it easier for AAUW members around the state to participate.

Our AAUW California Legislative Advocate will schedule meetings with the legislative offices. The committee will assemble teams of AAUW members and college students, matching them with Assembly and Senate districts. Training materials on the bills and the event will be posted on the state website in mid-March, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 25, 2024.

If you have participated in Lobby Days in the past, we would love to hear your feedback on what worked and what didn't. Please send your comments to [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

Lobby Days is a wonderful opportunity to meet with your legislators and advocate for legislation to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to advance our values.

**Amy Hom, Co-Chair AAUW California Public Policy Committee**

### TTAG Visit to the California Academy of Sciences



On December 3, our chapter sponsored a special visit to the CalAcademy for 7 TTAGers. The VIP tour included a visit to the storage rooms where the Academy keeps thousands of specimens, which are available for scientific research. One space was ichthyology, where 1/3 of the known species of fish is represented. Most are in small jars, as shown in the photo, but a few are in quite large containers. Another room was herpetology, where many little faces of snakes and various reptiles peered out at us. We also visited the taxidermy storage room, with specimens of large bones and taxidermied heads of many mammals, such as zebras and African horned deer. The Academy no longer displays these to the public.

The tour also included a visit to a mineral and gem vault that is not open to the public. We started the tour with a walk out onto the living roof itself, with a talk on what is planted there and why.

After lunch, our lanyards gave us expedited admission to the planetarium and all other exhibits. We watched the penguins being fed and heard a swamp talk while observing Claude, the albino alligator. He even moved around for us, not a treat every visitor gets!

It was a very full, fun, educational special treat for us all. Thank you AAUW-SF for this opportunity, and Mary Renner and Aisha Sawatsky for chaperoning.

**Mary Renner**

### Meet Our New Member!



Tracey Harding, based in San Francisco, serves as a Data Engineering Manager and Architect at Deloitte Consulting. Boasting an extensive 20-year career in data, analytics, and AI, Tracey has consistently applied her expertise

across diverse industry verticals, successfully addressing complex business challenges. Beyond her professional pursuits, Tracey is a passionate advocate for women in STEM careers, drawing inspiration from her role as a mother to two remarkable daughters. Her commitment to advancing both her field and gender diversity reflects a comprehensive dedication to excellence and positive societal impact.

Tracey became a member of the AAUW after watching the amazing work the organization is doing with Tech Trek, providing learning and networking opportunities for young girls in STEM. She hopes to continue to stay involved in Tech Trek to drive interest and amplify the influence the program has in the community.

### Ina Donna



Ina Coolbrith was born the niece of the founder of the Church of the Latter-day Saints in 1841. Her family soon left the religious community and kept their associations secret the rest of their lives. The family joined a group of covered wagons making an arduous trek through the Sierras, led by a well-known scout, named Jim Beckwourth, Ina and her family entered California settling in the south

Ina began to publish poetry while still in her teens. After her youthful marriage in Southern California failed, she moved north to San Francisco for a fresh start. Salons at her Taylor Street home for writers and critics introduced her to such up and coming writers as Bret Harte & Joaquin Miller. To pay expenses, she took a librarian position in Oakland. Nineteen years later she moved back to San Francisco. Members of the Bohemian Club invited Ina to be their librarian. The 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed much of her early work on a history of California literature. Even after several sojourns to New York increased her poetic output, her heart remained in San Francisco. She returned to reside here in the city that she loved. As she matured, she

wrote many more poetry collections, in spite of being plagued by arthritis and enduring ups and downs in financial support. In June of 1915 she was named California's first poet laureate. She actually was the first poet laureate of any state.

The Ina Coolbrith Circle is an active community of California writers dedicated to nurturing the poetry and history of the "Golden State". Ina Donna Coolbrith had visited the Ina Coolbrith Circle for the last time in 1927. She asked the attendees to "keep the history and literature of California alive." This organization still exists today holding regular meetings and poetry contests not only to keep Ina's memory alive but also to encourage new writers. In the 1980s they installed a plaque in Ina Coolbrith Park on Russian Hill as well as a pink marble headstone at her Oakland gravesite. An eight thousand foot peak south of Beckwourth Pass in the northern Sierras bears her name. In 2004, the Circle established a permanent archive in her [name.at](#) the California State Library in Sacramento. A website for this group can be found at: [www.coolpoetry.org](http://www.coolpoetry.org)

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

[www.cla-net.org](http://www.cla-net.org)

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

**Pat Camarena**

### January Birthdays



**Wanda Holland Greene**

January 8

**Jean Feeney**

January 10

**AAUWSF Board**

**Contact Us:**

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

**Co-Presidents**

Barbara Spencer  
Roli Wendorf

**Treasurer**

Kelly Joseph

**Secretary**

Rosaura Valle

**Membership Vice President**

Mary Renner

**Website**

Roli Wendorf

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Rosaura Valle and Caitlin Dainas

**Silver Jubilee Fund Chair**

Mary Suter

**Voter Information**

Sheila Bost

**Tech Trek Coordinator**

Barbara Spencer  
Roli Wendorf

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

Rosaura Valle

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

Kelly Joseph

*Don't sit down and wait for opportunities to come. Get up and make them.*



*Madame C.J Walker*

**Avanti Editor**

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 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.