



empowering women since 1881

AVANTI

sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net

A monthly publication of AAUW, San Francisco, est. in 1886

February 2024

Month at a Glance

February 7, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Rosaura Valle

February 12, 7:00 p.m.

AAUW Board Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Barbara Spencer

February 15, 7:00 p.m.

Tech Trek Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Roli Wendorf

February 16, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – IN PERSON

- Book: We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler
- Location: Connie Armitage's Home
1952, 16th Avenue
- Contact/Coordinator: Michelle Mammini

February 19, 7:00 p.m.

International Book Group

- Book: The Mitford Affair by Marie Benedict
- Hostess: Barbara Spencer, 736 Third Avenue
- RSVP: Barbara Spencer
- The March book is The Postcard by Anne Berest

February 21, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch – IN PERSON

- Location: Green's Restaurant, Fort Mason Center
o 415-771-6222
- RSVP: Mary Suter

February 22, 7:30 p.m.

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: Stargazer by Ann Hillerman
- Discussion Leader: Joanne Mandel
- RSVP: Elaine Butler

Co-President Message

AAUW San Francisco is off to a good start in 2024! We have gained some new members. In addition to those mentioned in the January Avanti, we are pleased to welcome Cyndi Bireley, who is new member Tracey Harding's mother. We plan to continue greeting our new members on zoom to learn about their interests.

Tech Trek

We are off and running with Tech Trek. Email packages have gone out to the middle school math and science teachers asking them to nominate girls. We hope to send 15 girls to camp this summer and will need a number of members to participate in interviewing potential campers in mid-March. Please contact Roli Wendorf or me if you are willing to help with the interviews and say yes if asked to help.

It will cost about \$15,000 to send 15 girls to camp. Donations are tax-deductible so long as you make your check payable to AAUW-CA SPF and submit it to me. I will then send the check to the treasurer of the appropriate camp. We expect to send girls to CSU Fresno and to CSU Monterey Bay. For donations of \$250 or more, you will receive an acknowledgment from the state Special Projects Fund (SPF).

To date, we have received donations from Mary Renner, Connie Armitage, and me for a total of \$6,000 for the 2024 camps. We hope to receive more donations and are grateful for the contributions and generosity of our members.

Silver Jubilee Scholarships

Every year our branch awards scholarships of \$3,000 to women who will be in their final two years of undergraduate or graduate studies next fall. The applicant must live or attend school within a 100 mile radius of San Francisco. Our website aauwsf.org contains a full description of the program and the application form. Please spread the word about these scholarships. The application deadline is March 15, 2024.

AAUW Membership and Webinar

We will again be voting on whether to open up AAUW membership to those who share our mission but do not have the requisite degrees. Stay tuned for further discussion of this important issue.

In the meantime, there will be a webinar on February 4 at 3:00 pm (PST) describing Black activist Mary Church Terrell's fight to integrate AAUW. A co-founder of the NAACP, Terrell became the first Black member of AAUW in 1948 after winning an anti-discrimination lawsuit. We will hear from Dr. Alison Parker, author of *Unceasing Militant: The Life of Mary Church Terrell*, as she recounts stories and achievements of this extraordinary woman. Register [HERE](#) for the webinar. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about our history.

Happy Leap Year!

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Win a VIP TOUR at CALACADEMY by March 1st

Who: AAUW member, Tech Trek Alumnae Parent, Tech Trek Alumnae

When: TBD between May 1st - June 30th

What: A FREE VIP Tour of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco

How: To win, be one of the first 5 to respond to [this survey](#) by **March 1st**

Contact: rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com

Lobby Days

Dear AAUW California Members,

Please join us for Lobby Days 2024! The event is scheduled for Tuesday, **April 2, 2024** and Wednesday, **April 3, 2024** and will be a wonderful opportunity to meet with state legislators and advocate for our priority bills. Meetings will be held via Zoom as well as in person in Sacramento. A training webinar will be held on March 25, 2024 to equip you with everything you need for a successful meeting.

In order to participate, you must complete the sign-up form and attend the mandatory training. Links to the survey and to register for the training session can be found below.

We hope that you will join us in this act of advocacy to promote our legislative priorities and advance our values.

Please complete the sign-up form by **February 15, 2024** so that we can learn your preferences and make plans for successful, impactful AAUW California Lobby Days. Your voices are needed to bring about the changes AAUW is committed to.

You MUST complete the signup form in order to participate.

[Click HERE to sign up for Lobby Days.](#)

A mandatory webinar training session will be held via Zoom on **March 25, 2024 (7-9 pm)**.

Participants will receive training materials prior to the webinar.

You MUST attend the webinar in order to participate.

Please register for the webinar below.

[Click HERE to sign up for the training webinar.](#)

Please contact us at publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org if you have any questions. Thank you for helping share AAUW's voice on the issues you care about.

Learn About A Woman Who Changed The Face of AAUW!

Join us via Zoom on Sunday, February 4th, at 3 pm to hear about Black activist Mary Church Terrell, her work for women's suffrage and racial equality, and

her role in the integration of AAUW. A co-founder of the NAACP, Terrell became the first Black member of AAUW after winning an anti-discrimination lawsuit. We will hear from Dr. Alison Parker, author of *Unceasing Militant: The Life of Mary Church Terrell*, as she recounts stories and major successes in the life of this extraordinary woman. Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear firsthand about this little known activist and her unusual history with AAUW. Register [HERE](#).

Meet Our New Members!

Aisha Sawatsky



I am a designer and preservation specialist working with historic buildings in the Bay Area while pursuing licensure as an architect. I was a recipient of an AAUW Selected Professions Fellowship in 2016-2017, which enabled me to complete my Master of Architecture degree at the University of Virginia. After moving to San Francisco in 2021, I wanted to join the local chapter in order to meet new people, become involved with a local community,

and to give back to an organization that has helped me so much to continue my education and develop my career. Since joining AAUW-SF, I have been involved in a few TTAG events such as chaperoning alumnae visits to the Exploratorium (2022) and the California Academy of Sciences (2023) with Mary Renner. While juggling studying for my licensure exams, I'd like to continue my involvement with TTAG and contribute to the chapter however needed.

Tiffany D. Caesar



Dr. Tiffany Caesar is currently an assistant professor of Africana Studies at San Francisco State University where she teaches African American History and Black Lives Matter: Race and Social Justice Movements. She calls herself a “Black Woman’s Archivist” due to her ongoing research on the preservation of transnational black women leaders and engagement with public history writing about the lives of such women like Queen Mother Moore, Margaret Walker, and Phyllis Ntantala. Dr. Caesar led the initiatives to create the Queen Mother Moore Marker in New Iberia, Louisiana with the Iberia African American Historical Society. She was a Mellon scholar at the Margaret Walker Center and a Faculty Fellow for the Institute for Social Justice and Race Relation at Jackson State University. She is currently working on multiple

publications and co-editing a series of journals for the recent Phillis Wheatley Poetry Festival 50th Anniversary that recently occurred in Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Caesar is also the current chair of the Black Student Union/Third World Liberation Front Commemoration Efforts at San Francisco State University.

Catherine Muriel



Catherine is the Executive Director of Girls on the Run of the Bay Area, a nonprofit focused on building confidence and health for girls in 3 – 8th grade in the SF Bay Area. Girls on the Run believes that every girl, no matter her athletic ability, economic status, race or ethnicity benefits from the girl empowerment after-school program. After living in NYC for 23 years, Catherine moved with her family to the Bay Area and immersed herself in startups and eventually into nonprofit work. Now that her son has moved out of the house and is working in San Francisco, she is busy being an empty nester and has no intention of moving anywhere else. Catherine wanted to join an AAUW to give her the opportunity to meet fellow colleagues as well as contribute to the Bay Area community.

Maggy Kepler

Maggy is from Marin County, CA and attended Tech Trek at Stanford in 2011. More recently, she graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2020 with a major in Biochemistry and a minor in Biotechnology. Following working a harvest at J.Lohr winery in Paso Robles and 2 years as a clinical patient navigator with Spring Fertility, Maggy is now a masters student at UCSF studying genetic counseling. Maggy joined AAUW to give back to an organization which has supported and inspired her in the past. She is currently working with the Tech Trek and TTAG committees and is looking forward to hopefully guest speaking at camp again this summer.

From Sadness to Joy

In 1963, a 65 year old San Francisco Latina woman named Elena Zelayeta was named California's Mother of the Year by the State American Mothers Committee. After attending a 17 course dinner at her house, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, the author of "Amazing Results of Positive Thinking" (1952), commented that Elena was one of the most marvelous examples of positive thinking that he had ever met. Not only had she become a universally renowned chef and cookbook author, but she accomplished so much despite the fact that she had lost her sight as a young woman. This is her backstory.

Her Mexican family had moved to San Francisco when Elena was eleven. Her chef mother had taught her to cook. As a young married woman, both Elena and her husband lost their jobs during the depression of the 1930s. Reinventing themselves, they began to cook and serve Spanish and Mexican dishes in their apartment. Soon those who had eaten at her house were raving about how wonderful her cooking was. Soon Elena & her husband were able to open a restaurant in the King George Hotel on Mason St.

Her eyesight, which had always been poor, began to fail due to macular degeneration. They finally had to give up their restaurant. Times were hard. Elena fell into a deep depression for a few years. Eventually her love of cooking helped her dispel her hopeless feelings. She taught herself by trial and error to cook in the increasing darkness using her other senses. So well did she teach herself to cope that as time went on she sometimes demonstrated for other blind persons what she herself had learned.

Another tragedy befell her family in 1945. Her husband died in an auto accident leaving Elena on her own with two young sons to support. However, by the following year, Elena had managed to become an American citizen. By 1950 with the writing help of friends, she had begun to publish her recipes. That same year she became the first Latina to host a series of television cooking shows! Americans were introduced to the wonders of Mexican and Spanish cuisine which was much less understood back in the 50s. Her boundless energy and obvious happiness was contagious. Eventually she was able to publish six cookbooks, travel widely to teach cookery classes, and establish a rehabilitation program in Mexico for the blind.

At the end of the autobiography she wrote in 1960, she commented, "I have said 'Oh God, I would give anything

to see again.' But today if God said, 'I'll give you back your sight in exchange for your friends,' I would say, 'No. keep my sight, I would not give up my friends.'"

www.nyt.com ("Overlooked No More")

www.kqed.org

Pat Camarena

February Birthdays



Corrine Sacks

February 25

AAUWSF Board

Contact Us:

aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

Co-Presidents

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Roli Wendorf

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

Rosaura Valle

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

Kelly Joseph

Never let success get to your head, never let failure get to your heart.



Beyoncé

Avanti Editor

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 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.