

*Month at a Glance***June 1st, 2:00 p.m.**

Tech Trek Send Off Party – IN PERSON

- Location: Sports Basement at Stonestown
3251 20th Ave San Francisco, CA 94132
- Contact: Roli Wendorf

June 5, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Rosaura Valle

June 8, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Branch Meeting – IN PERSON Brunch!

- Location: Mission Rock Resort, 817 Terry A Francois Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94185 (Dogpatch)
- RSVP by June 6 to Barbara Spencer

June 17, 7:00 p.m.

International Book Group

- Book: *North Woods* by Daniel Mason
- RSVP/Hostess: Barbara Spencer

The July book is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

June 19, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch – IN PERSON

- Location: Chez Maman (Potrero Hill)
 - 1401 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94107
 - Food: French Bistro
- RSVP: Mary Suter

June 20, 7:30 p.m.

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: *Bangalore Detective Club* by Harini Nagendra
- Discussion Leader: Roli wendorf
- RSVP (to receive link): Elaine Butler

June 21, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – IN PERSON

- Book: *Go, Went, Gone* by Jenny Erpenbeck
- Contact Hostess: Annie Puckett (Stroh)

Co-President Message**YOU ARE INVITED!!!!!!****AAUW SAN FRANCISCO SUMMER
BRUNCH****SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024, 10 AM****MISSION ROCK RESORT, 817 TERRY A
FRANCOIS BLVD**

Please join us for brunch at our annual branch meeting on June 8 at 10 am. Meet our Silver Jubilee Scholarship winners, renew friendships, and vote on the branch bylaw changes. We will have a few tables; please be prepared to pay your share of the table's bill. Brunch is on the covered balcony overlooking the bay. We will vote on changes to our bylaws. Please come!

RSVP to Barbara Spencer by June 6.

National Election Results

The initiative to open AAUW's membership did not pass, but the national board encourages members and non-members to engage with our policy goals by attending webinars and events. On a more positive note, congratulations to our friend Cheryl Sorokin on her election as national Board Chair. Cheryl is a member of the Marin AAUW branch. We look forward to her leadership.

Membership Renewals

It's time to renew your membership if your membership expires on June 30, as most do. The dues amount remains the same — \$93. \$1 comes to our branch, \$20 to the state, and \$72 to national. The \$72 national dues are tax deductible. Please try to renew on the aauw.org website, but if that doesn't work, you can write a check to AAUW-SF and mail it to P.O. Box 31405, SF 94131. You may receive email reminders about membership renewal.

Tech Trek

We are sending 17 rising 8th grade girls to Tech Trek this summer. Two will attend virtual camp. Nine will attend Camp Carson residential camp at UC Santa Cruz, and six girls will go to California State University Fresno. The Send-Off party is June 1, 2-4pm at the Sports Basement at Stonestown. All members received an email invitation.

Passing the Torch

With this issue of Avanti, we say farewell to Caitlin Dainas who has served as our Avanti newsletter editor for the past two years. Caitlin reached out to us while a sophomore in high school, seeking a volunteer position because her goals meshed with our goals. She has done a superb job. Caitlin is off to Boston University this fall, planning to major in political science. We wish her the best along with our abundant gratitude.

Cyndi Bireley, a new member of the branch, has volunteered to take over the editing of our Avanti newsletter. Kudos to Cyndi for stepping up! We look forward to working with Cyndi.

I hope to see many of you at the June 8 brunch.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

**Proposed Changes to Branch Bylaws**

We are proposing changes to our branch bylaws in articles related to nominations and elections, composition of the board of directors, and board meetings. The current bylaws reflect practices from many years ago when the branch had more members, more elected officers, and elections for board positions were held on an annual basis. This has not been true for a number of years. The purpose of the proposed changes is to bring our bylaws in line with actual practice.

Here is an overview of the significant changes and their rationale:

- **Nominations and Elections:** Removes the requirement of having a nominating committee and gives the responsibility of nominating new

officers to the board. With a dearth of volunteers and infrequent changes in leadership roles, a nominating committee has not been used for the past several years.

- **Board Officers:** Reduces the number of required officers on the Board of Directors to just three elected officers: President, Treasurer, and Secretary. All other elected officers such as various VPs and appointed officers for various roles are made optional and may be added as needed. We have difficulty filling board positions and are creating greater flexibility in the size of the board. For example, we have not had VPs for programs or AAUW Funds for many years, and are making all VPs optional.
- **Board Meetings:** Clarifies that board meetings may be held virtually or in-person. Almost all our board meetings are on Zoom now. Also, the quorum for a board meeting is changed to a majority of elected officers rather than a majority of elected and appointed officers. Not all appointed officers are able to attend meetings, and reaching quorum has been difficult at times.

In the table below, all changes are given in detail. You can see a comparison of the wording in the original (current) bylaws and the proposed modifications.

Original	Modified
<p>Article IX. Nominations and Elections Section 1. a. There shall be a nominating committee of three members, appointed by the board, plus the board secretary who shall serve as chair.</p> <p>b. The term of service on the nominating committee shall be for one year, from time of appointment until the Branch election.</p>	<p>Article IX. Nominations and Elections Section 1. a. Nominations for elected office shall be made by the board.</p> <p>b. (deleted)</p>

<p>Article X. Officers Section 1. a. The elected officers for the branch shall be president, finance officer, secretary, and vice-presidents for program, membership, AAUW Funds.</p> <p>b. The appointed officers shall include public policy / reproductive choice, newsletter editor, Tech Trek Chair, website/technology, Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund, and hospitality. They shall be appointed by the president with the consent of the board.</p> <p>c. Officers shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected or appointed and assume office.</p> <p>d. All vacancies in office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the board with the exception of a vacancy in the office of president, which shall be filled by the vice-presidents in order listed in Section 1-a.</p>	<p>Article X. Officers Section 1. a. The elected officers for the branch shall be president, finance officer, secretary, and may include vice-presidents for program, membership, AAUW Funds.</p> <p>b. The appointed officers may include public policy chair, newsletter editor, Tech Trek Coordinator, TTAG Chair, website/technology manager, Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund Chair, and other positions as needed. They shall be appointed by the president with the consent of the board.</p> <p>c. Officers shall serve for a term of one or more years.</p> <p>d. All vacancies in office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the board.</p>
<p>Article XI. Board of Directors Section 3. Meetings. Meetings of the board shall be held at least six times a year at a time and place agreed upon by the board.</p> <p>Section 5. Quorum. The quorum for a meeting of the board shall be a majority of the voting members.</p>	<p>Article XI. Board of Directors Section 3. Meetings. Meetings of the board shall be held at least six times a year at a time and place agreed upon by the board, including virtually.</p> <p>Section 5. Quorum. The quorum for a meeting of the board shall be a majority of the elected officers.</p>

The proposed changes described above have already been unanimously approved by the board at our April 8, 2024 meeting. They will be put to vote for the approval of all branch members at our annual meeting on June 8, 2024 to be held at Mission Rock Resort. For passage, these changes need to be approved by two-thirds of the voting branch members.

The complete bylaws as they currently stand, dated 2017, can be found on the website: [HERE](#)

Roli Wendorf and Barbara Spencer, Co-Presidents

Rosaura Honored



On behalf of a grateful branch, we are pleased to recognize Rosaura Valle as our **2024 Branch Named Gift Honoree**. A Named Gift is a special way to pay tribute to an individual, a group, or an organization giving extraordinary service to AAUW. The selection is done by the branch, but the certificate comes from national AAUW. It states that the San Francisco Branch has named a gift to AAUW Fund in honor of Rosaura.

This honor is a way for us to recognize the many ways in which Rosaura has made significant contributions to our branch. Her contributions to TTAG in setting up the group and creating a lineup of programs, internships, scholarships and a student board are far reaching and help in the growth of the students. She also has an

important voice on the Board of Directors as the secretary. Her advice and opinions are highly valued. Finally, we appreciate Rosaura's contributions to Avanti by guiding Caitlin for the past two years.

Congratulations, Rosaura! The honor is very well deserved.



Roli Wendorf, Co-President

Tech Trek Alumnae receive TTAG Scholarship (part II)

This year four TTAG scholarships of \$4,000 each were awarded! Two of the recipients are renewing applicants Kimia and Lexian, presented in the May issue of Avanti (Tech Trek Alumnae receive TTAG Scholarship - part I). The two other recipients are high school graduates Azelea Artiga (Abraham Lincoln HS) and Sonia Lee (Lowell HS), who both attended Tech Trek on the Stanford campus in 2019. Azelea has enrolled at San Diego State University with a pre-major in Business Administration - Marketing (Integrated Marketing Communications), while Sonia will attend UC Davis with an intended major in Electrical Engineering and Economics.

Azelea wrote in a TTAG Newsletter that joining TTAG was the "best decision she ever made". From her participation

in our Bay Area Science Festival exhibit in 2022, to Co-President of the TTAG student-led Board this year, through her participation in Send Off and Welcome Back Party events and Tech Trek interviews, Azelea truly exemplifies the growth that the TTAG program can offer. During her TTAG internship alongside Sonia in the Summer 2023, she worked on setting up the TTAG student-led Board, which Azelea co-led with wonderful communication, organization and people skills.

Azelea is planning to major in a non-STEM field, and preference will be given in the future to supporting scholarship applications from STEM students. However, the TTAG Scholarship award recognizes Azelea's personal growth through her TTAG leadership experience and contribution to the student-led board.

Sonia distinguished herself by becoming Roli Wendorf's intern in the Summer 2022 assisting her with establishing the new branch website (sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net). In addition to co-leading the student Board with Azelea, and mentoring junior Tech Trek Alumnae and Tech Trek campers, Sonia has contributed this year to the AAUW-California Tech Trek Alumnae Community slack channel. Robotics has been Sonia's favorite extracurricular activity throughout high school, and it is with a laser-focused STEM mindset, that she has grown from Tech Trek camper to a UC student in electrical engineering.

With the Tech Trek and TTAG programs, our goal is to develop a pipeline of students from camp to college: from sparking interest into a variety of STEM fields at camp, to being part of a community of like-minded students with TTAG. Azelea and Sonia just accomplished that. I am proud of them both, and cannot wait to hear about their progress on campus !

The TTAG Scholarship recipients will be officially recognized at the Tech Trek Send Off Party taking place at

the Stonestown Sports Basement (to the exception of Lexian who will be off to the East Coast attending the AAUW sponsored NCCWSL conference).

You are invited: please come and join us on June 1st in celebrating the Tech Trek Alumnae's success while sending off the next cohort of Tech Trek campers! Congratulations to all!

Rosaura Valle, TTAG Chair

Silver Jubilee Scholarships



From left to right, recipients and SJ Scholarship Fund members: Maggy Kepler, Connie Armitage, Mary Suter, Mary Renner, Barbara Spencer, and Chelsea Connor

Two of our three Silver Jubilee scholarship awardees met for lunch with the Scholarship Committee at Mary Renner's home on May 18 to receive their checks. Maggy Kepler and Chelsea Connor were able to attend and will also join us at the June 8 Annual Brunch Meeting at Mission Rock Resort at 10 am. Kaia Minor was unable to attend, but will join us on June 8. We enjoyed having a chance to visit with Maggy and Chelsea and look forward to meeting Kaia on June 8.

Barbara Spencer, Silver Jubilee Chair

New Member Spotlight
Meet Cyndi Bireley, our new Avanti Editor!



My name is Cyndi Bireley. My two dogs and I moved to the Sunset District of San Francisco this past May to join my daughter, son in law, and two granddaughters.

Originally from Philadelphia, Pa I'd previously lived in a suburb of Atlanta, GA with my late husband since 1991. Given the opportunity to live in a place I'd previously lived in the late '70s, I jumped at the chance. I have a degree in Elementary Education but have spent my career of the last 4 decades in a business environment as an Executive assistant, and I'm still working at the age of almost 71, albeit, virtually (because, let's face it, why give up something you love if you can still keep up the pace?)

I love to read, decorate and organize and also thoroughly enjoy diy projects. My dogs and I enjoy being on the beach or people watching in Golden Gate Park.

I can't wait to meet you all.

Cyndi

As of the July issue of Avanti, please make sure to email your contributions to: Cyndi Bireley

A Rewarding Life Far From Iowa

Though born and brought up in the Middle West, Ethel Lindgren grew up in a family whose careers provided many opportunities for world travel. Her mother was a pianist. Her step-father was a composer. While still a child, she accompanied her parents on a trip to see the Great Wall of China. She was immediately fascinated by the culture of the nomadic people she observed in the area. Then and there Ethel decided that she wanted to pursue a career as an anthropologist/ethnologist in order to further explore and study the indigenous people of the Mongolian region. After graduating from Smith College, she moved to Cambridge in England to read Chinese and experimental psychology..

In the prewar years of the 1930s, she made extensive trips to Ulaanbaatar, Siberia, and Manchuria. She was able to follow the daily lives of the nomadic Tungas and Russian Cossacks She recorded never before seen shaman practices and observed the reindeer husbandry culture there and in Lapland on which so many nomadic tribes depended for survival.in the harsh climates. Returning to Cambridge as the second world war loomed, she taught in the anthropology department and published articles and photos detailing what she had learned. By this time she had earned her doctorate using much of the material she had so carefully gathered and recorded. She became a British citizen in 1940 in support of England's war effort.

After the war, Ethel had married again, this time to a Sami reindeer breeder. In the early 1950s they



were both involved in the reintroduction of a reindeer population in the Scottish Highlands where the protected herd is again thriving long after they had become extinct.

Throughout her long and active life, Ethel Lindgren demonstrated an amazing unwavering fixity of purpose. She was always willing to share her knowledge with friends. She advised and learned from colleagues. Always scholarly and enthusiastic about her field of study, she inspired several generations of potential students to follow in her footsteps. Bravo!

Pat Camarena

www.cairngormreindeer.co.uk

www.landfonline.com

June Birthdays



Anni Puckett	June 10
Mary Graves	June 10
Lucretia Axtell	June 12
Sarah Bohmer	June 17
Mary Suter	June 21
Sandra Tye	June 28

AAUW-SF Board

Contact Us:

aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

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Roli Wendorf

Co-Treasurers

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Roli Wendorf

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Rosaura Valle

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Sheila Bost

Tech Trek Coordinators

Barbara Spencer
Roli Wendorf

Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) Chair

Rosaura Valle

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator

Kelly Joseph

"You can do anything that you want to, but you have to work at it"



Annie Easley

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.