



empowering women since 1881

AVANTI

sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net

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

April 2024

Month at a Glance

April 3rd, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Rosaura Valle rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com

April 8, 7:00 p.m.

AAUW Board Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Barbara Spencer barbaracspencer@gmail.com

April 15, 7:00 p.m.

International Book Group

- Book: *The Dying Day* by Vaseem Khan
- Hostess: Nancy Shapiro, 1683 42nd Avenue
- RSVP: Nancy Shapiro 415-731-2654 or nancy.shapiro@sonic.net
- The May book is *The Chinese Groove* by Kathryn Ma

April 17, 12:00 p.m.

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: we are making a switch this month *The Twist of a Knife* by Anthony Horowitz
- Discussion Leader: Pat Camarena
- RSVP (to receive link): Elaine Butler elainebutler124@comcast.net

April 19, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – IN PERSON

- Book: *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel
- Hostess: Paula Campbell
 - 415-567-1330 or campbellp@usfca.edu
 - 338 Ewing Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94118
- Contact/Coordinator: Michelle Mammini mmammini@pacbell.net

April 25, 7:30 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

April 28, 12:30 p.m.

Women in STEM Workshop – via ZOOM

- Contact: Rosaura Valle rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com

Co-President Message

Happy Spring! I'm having a bout of tulip-mania with a touch of daffodil appreciation. Onto the news—

Trek Trek

The Tech Trek Committee and branch members interviewed 24 7th grade girls on March 16-17, with the able assistance of some of our Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG). We have been allotted 15 spots at two different camps — CSU Fresno and CSU Monterey Bay. Once again, the Junior League of San Francisco opened their offices to us. We are grateful for their hospitality.

The Tech Trek sendoff event will be held on June 1, 2-4 pm, at the community event room at the Stonestown Sports Basement store. The girls going to camp will have an opportunity to meet each other and find out more about their particular camp. The parents will get to ask more questions and perhaps arrange carpools. We would also like to recruit branch members from the parent group.

Women's Professional Networking Group

A Zoom meeting will be held at 10am on April 20. It will be an informal session on mentorship and sharing personal stories. New faces are welcome — just contact Roli Wendorf to be added to the zoom list.

Annual Branch Meeting Brunch

Our annual branch meeting and brunch will be held on Saturday, June 8, 10am, at Mission Rock Resort, 817 Terry A. Francois Blvd., San Francisco. Please save the date!

Open Membership Vote

AAUW national has proposed a bylaw change to remove the degree requirement for membership. Voting will begin on April 3. All members will receive an email from vote@simplyvoting.com with an ID number and a password for voting. The voting will close on May 15, 12pm ET. Passage of the bylaw change requires 2/3 of the votes cast.

When AAUW was formed, higher education and professional careers were denied to women. That is no longer the case. More than 50% of college degrees are now awarded to women, and women are attaining powerful positions in business and government. Yet discrimination against women continues. Eliminating the degree requirement will enable us to expand our voice and our reach, our ability to fulfill our purpose, and will open more opportunities to address the needs of all women.

Membership requirements have evolved over the years. Until the late 1940's, only women with four-year degrees from a small list of accredited, elite universities could join AAUW. The World War II years broadened AAUW's vision and women with four-year degrees from any accredited school were invited to join, but they had to present their degree certificates. The next requirements to be dropped were accreditation and proof of degree. Then the 4-year degree requirement was dropped as holders of 3-year nursing degrees and 2-year associate degrees became eligible. Eligibility was also extended to students working toward a degree. Then men were allowed to join in the 1980's.

It's time to eliminate the last membership barrier. Eliminating the degree requirement will bring AAUW into alignment with our mission and values. We believe in equity, diversity and inclusion, yet we are not practicing these values with this degree requirement. A yes vote is

urged by the national board, our state board, and our branch officers. The national website aauw.org and the state website aauw-ca.org have further discussion of this important issue. Please vote YES.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

Open Membership Q&A Session

Learn about the upcoming member vote on candidates for the national AAUW Board of Directors and on a bylaws amendment to [open membership](#) to all who believe in AAUW's mission of equity for all.

Please [join us](#) on Tuesday, April 2 at 7 p.m. ET for a Q&A session on all things open membership. [Register now.](#)

AAUW Priorities in the 2024 U.S. Election

As part of our [It's My Vote! 2024 voter engagement campaign](#), let's dive into the policy issues at stake in this year's national elections, including pay equity, equity in education, reproductive rights, and the Equal Rights Amendment. Learn how AAUW members can engage in local voter education efforts Wednesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. ET. [Join the call here.](#)

AAUW's Impact in 2023: Read the Report

In the face of persistent challenges hindering women's progress, AAUW stood unwavering, advocating for gender equity in 2023. Despite enduring discrimination and disproportionate burdens, particularly affecting women and girls of color, AAUW members actively engaged in advocacy, sent messages to legislators, and championed legislative change on Capitol Hill.

Learn more about some of these organizational achievements by reading [AAUW's 2023 Year in Review](#) now on our website.

AAUW Annual Art Contest Winners

We're thrilled to announce the winners of our annual art contest, showcasing the immense talent within the AAUW community.

If you haven't already, we invite you to [explore the winning entries](#) displayed in our [Art Contest gallery](#).

Stay tuned, as this month members will receive these captivating artworks featured on our spring note cards. Join us in celebrating creativity and the incredible achievements of our talented artists!

Meet the AAUW-SF Women in STEM April Avanti

How many branch members do you know who have a STEM background? Do you know any of the branch members who support the Tech Trek and Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) program? Have you already met some of our newest members?

If you have answered NO to any of these questions, you may want to join us on zoom on **April 28 at 12:30 PM** to "Meet the AAUW-SF Women in STEM" Maggy Kepler (graduate student, genetic counseling master, UCSF), Leslie Yuan (public health and IT, Chief Information Officer, Clinical and Translational Science Institute, UCSF), Aisha Sawatsky (architecture, Designer and Preservation Specialist for historic buildings), and Tracey Harding (IT, Solution Architect with a specialization in Data and Artificial Intelligence) in conversation around their career paths and challenges. Speakers will then split into four zoom breakout rooms led by Tech Trek Alumnae, where the audience will be able to delve in more details in each panelist's professional activities. The online event will be promoted to other AAUW branches and all TTAGs in California.

The TTAG Annual Women in STEM panel event was designed with the Tech Trek Alumnae Group in mind to showcase role models and career paths in STEM. Each with its own underlying theme, past Women in STEM panels have focused on conversations with Tech Trek Alumnae in college (April 2023) and young professional women in the STEM workforce (October 2020), or centered on topics such as the exploration of STEM disciplines (January 2020) and the relationship between STEM and Society (April 2022).

However this year, our Women in STEM panel is not only designed to explore STEM careers. It is also designed to launch a mentorship program for Tech Trek Alumnae. Beyond TTAG, this year's event will also showcase professional women who have recently joined our branch and who work in different STEM fields. Interestingly, and contrary to many other AAUW branches, our San Francisco branch has seen an increase in membership in the past two years. As part of an effort to create community within our branch, the 5th Annual Women in STEM event will be an opportunity for long-time branch members to get to know new ones, as well as to recognize and celebrate those who are actively volunteering in Tech Trek and/or TTAG. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Join at zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83045939654?pwd=YVM3VEU1NDFnSENlbWtXZEphcUxOQT09>

Meeting ID: 830 4593 9654

Passcode: 780748

Rosaura Valle, TTAG Coordinator

Every 15 Minutes



“Every 15 minutes, someone dies in a drunk driving related accident.”

Since the 1990s, California Highway Patrol (CHP) has sponsored educational programs in high schools across the state, raising awareness of the consequences of drunk driving. A prevalent topic amongst young adults today, who are at the forefront of alcohol and substance use, the program aspires to help teenagers think twice before getting in the car. In order to do so, CHP offers grants in order to sponsor a two-day staged car crash and funeral procession with high school students, bringing the emotions and consequences of DUI accidents to life.

For the past two years, I had the privilege of co-leading the Every 15 Minutes program at Foothill High School, raising over \$25,000 for the event with the help of CHP and local sponsors. As Co-Director of film, I was in charge of creating a short film/documentary for the event—curating the crash storyline, selecting student participants from the school, filming, and editing. From filming dialogue in our local downtown to medical response at Eden Hospital, most of the work took place before the live event itself on March 27th and 28th.

Day one of the event is a live-staged car crash performed in front of the school on the main road, complete with Emergency Response from police, fire department, hospital, and coroner staff. With the help of a film crew, the event was documented and uploaded, ready to be edited in one night and inserted as the final piece of the short film. This night, we also hosted a parent and student retreat for chosen participants, leading activities and bringing in professional speakers to raise awareness of the topic. Day two is the school funeral assembly/procession, memorializing the students who had “passed” the previous day. There is a live screening of the short film, accompanied by a speaker, poem readings, and obituary letter readings from students/parents. It is an emotional experience for all, and our school prioritizes counseling for those who need it throughout the week.

Luckily, due to programs such as this one, the “Every 15 Minutes” statistic has improved. Today, **every 15 minutes someone is injured in a drunk driving related accident. Every 52 minutes, someone dies in a drunk driving related accident.** While these are improvements, our work is still not done, and we hope our efforts can prevent others from having to face the reality of a DUI accident. It takes a community to tackle difficult problems, and I hope to continue spreading this important message to the AAUW community.

The finalized short film can be found on Youtube:
<https://youtu.be/8tMN1VQLmU8?si=Aoe5VF341quD39q>
 ! . Please watch and share the message if you can!

A Journey of Self Discovery



Anne Morrow was half of a lifelong partnership that survived tragedy, loss, and controversy.. Her early life, often in the public eye, did not bring her the great happiness or peace she found that she needed. As a budding young author, she began to realize that she could best draw inspiration by seeking solitude.. However as a young mother of five children and the wife of a celebrity, Anne found that her married life had become an open book to the curious public. Self discovery would have to come little by little.

Anne had become the wife of the aviator, Charles Lindberg, the first pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic in 1927. He became the most famous person on the planet. Anne quickly learned to fly, and acted as a radio operator and co-pilot on his many aerial survey flights. In 1930, she became the first woman to receive a U.S. glider pilot licence. Together they were a formidable team. They opened up many new routes for commercial airlines Anne is quoted as saying, "He opened the door to 'real life' and although it frightened me, it also beckoned.. I had to go."

The press hounded them, first for news of their accomplishments and then for details concerning

Caitlin Dainas, SF Branch Intern and Newsletter Editor

the disastrous kidnapping of their young son and the subsequent trial of the suspected kidnappers. Anxious for privacy, they escaped to Europe for a time, both in England and also on a small remote island near the coast of western France. There Anne was able to find some peace and solitude but only briefly. World War II was looming. Charles was beginning to hold isolationist views, believing that Russia's Stalin was a greater threat to world peace than Germany's Hitler. Returning to the U.S., they both found their previous views of the world and their place in it were rapidly changing. Traditional roles for women were never to be the same.

Moving away from politics, Anne was becoming a bestselling author, writing poetry and nonfiction. She is considered to be one of the 20th century's leading feminist voices. Charles' reputation had been badly damaged by his anti-Jewish pronouncements and Axis support during the war. He began to travel widely and involved himself in medical research projects, anthropology, rocketry, and conservation. Anne on occasion sought solitude where she could write in peace. In the early '50s, One of the locations she chose was Captiva. It is a small barrier island on the Gulf of Mexico, not far from Tampa and Ft. Meyers, but still relatively quiet and peaceful with white sand beaches and few people. Here in 1955, she found inspiration for one of her best selling books, [Gift from the Sea](#). This book contains meditations on youth and age, love and marriage, peace, solitude and contentment, It is still considered today as a classic that can guide readers to find space for contemplation and creativity

Charles and Anne continued to be married for about 45 years. His frequent solo travels were not totally understood by Anne nor their children &

were not revealed until many years after they had both passed on. But that is a whole other story.

www.mnhs.org

www.pioneersofflight.si.edu

www.themarginalian.org

Pat Camarena

April Birthdays



Joanne Mandel

April 6

Roberta Guise

April 28

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aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

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Champions keep playing until they get it right.



Billie Jean King

Avanti Editor

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 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.