

## Month at a Glance

### August 3rd, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Board Planning Meeting – IN PERSON

- Location: at Roli's followed by lunch out
- Contact: Roli Wendorf

### August 7, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Rosaura Valle

### August 16, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – IN PERSON

- Book: Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Melinda Lo
- Contact Hostess: Joanne Mandel

### August 19, 7:00 p.m.

International Book Group

- Contact: Barbara Spencer
- Contact: Sheila Bost

### August 21, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch

- Contact: Mary Suter

### August 22, 7:30 p.m.

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Book: The Enigma of Room 622 by Joel Dicker
- Discussion Leader: Barbara Cohrssen
- RSVP (to receive link): Elaine Butler
- The September meeting is for choosing our 2024-2025 books. Be ready to recommend some of your favorites!

## Co-President's Message

Hello All,

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. Our branch activities are quiet during the summer months, but we will have a planning meeting on August 3 to map out our program for the year. Please contact me or any board member if you have suggestions.

## Branch Changes

As mentioned in prior Avanti, we have a new Avanti newsletter editor — Cyndi Bireley. Please remember to address your Avanti material to Cyndi Bireley. We are so grateful that Cyndi offered to take on this position and would appreciate everyone's cooperation by submitting timely reports.

**For Avanti September submissions,  
please make sure to email your contributions to  
Cyndi Bireley**

## Membership Renewals

We are in a new year for AAUW, and it is time to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Our dues are still \$93, of which \$72 is tax deductible. That is the portion that goes to AAUW national. The smoothest way to renew is by logging into the national website at [my.aauw.org](http://my.aauw.org) and following the prompts.

Be sure to add the San Francisco Branch and California State to your membership. If you have difficulties with online renewal, you can mail a check for \$93 payable to

AAWU-SF to PO Box 31405, San Francisco 94131. Timely renewals save us a lot of paperwork.

### **New Interest Group**

We have formed a Women's Professional Networking Group to provide support for our younger members who are still in the workforce. The plan is to meet around three times a year with different programs. The first program for the year will be held on Saturday, September 21 at 10 am on "Designing Your Life." More details are included later in this newsletter.

### **Save the Date**

Saturday, September 7, 2-4pm, Tech Trek Welcome Back Party, Community Room, Sports Basement, Stonestown.

See you in September!

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

## **Women's Professional Networking Group**

### **DESIGNING YOUR LIFE WORKSHOP**

#### **SAVE THE DATE:**

**Saturday September 21, 2024 at 10 AM - via zoom**

**Presented by Rosaura Valle**

Contact: [rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com)

Bring your Moleskine notebook and inquisitive self! In this 1hr30 min workshop we will explore together Bill Burnett and Dale Evans' DESIGNING YOUR LIFE mindset and world. No prior background needed.

First, we will watch [this video](#) - a 25 minute introduction to the principles of design thinking. Bill Burnett, Executive Director of the Design Program at Stanford, Co-Director of its Life Design Lab, and author of the book, will tell us

how these principles, when applied to our reflection over activities, career, or life path can help us "get unstuck" and move forward towards building the goals and the life that we actually want for ourselves.

After the video, we will discuss as a group the 5 major points to get unstuck. Then we will take some time to reflect and jot down the 3 Five-Year Odyssey Plans.

Watch the video in advance (optional):

[5 steps to designing the life you want | Bill Burnett | TEDxStanford \(youtube.com\)](#)



About DESIGN YOUR LIFE: <https://designingyour.life/>

It started as a popular Stanford class, taught by Bill Burnett and Dale Evans, a pair of d.School professors (aka the Stanford Design School) and co-founders of the d.life Lab. Then it became a book. An example of those Stanford success stories that take a life of their own outside of campus, Designing your life is now a full-fledge coaching program and commercial enterprise with multiple versions for all stages of life, including [Books - Designing Your Life \(original book\) - Designing Your Life](#), Designing your Work Life, [Workshops - DYL for Women - Designing Your Life](#), [Reframing Retirement for Women](#), international meets etc.

**Rosaura Valle, TTAG Chair**

## 2024 Tech Trek Send Off & Welcome Back Party

Although I was unable to attend the traditional Tech Trek Send Off Party on June 1st 2024, TTAG Advisor Susan Pollack described the event as “a complete success”.



Held for the first time at the Stonestown Sports Basement, the space was filled with lots of campers, Tech Trek Alumnae, parents and AAUW members. Barbara Spencer and Roli Wendorf, Co-Presidents and Tech Trek Committee Coordinators, talked about the Tech Trek program and TTAG, followed by the TTAG scholarship award ceremony. This year recipients were: Kimia Sattary, Lexian Nguyen, Azelea Artiga and Sonia Lee (check the May and June Avanti).

Attendees then broke into three groups: residential campers, virtual campers, and parents. Under Sonia's leadership, Tech Trek Alumnae did a wonderful job engaging the campers with ice breakers and a Q&A session, while past Tech Trek parents led a lively discussion and shared their insight with the parent group. The one virtual camper had a special information session with Roli, a Virtual Camp Advisor, and Noor, a TTAGer and 2023 virtual camper.



On September 7 we are celebrating campers at a Welcome Back Party (see invite below). Come and join in the excitement and appreciation for what the Tech Trek experience can provide to rising 8th graders!

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, September 7, 2-4pm,  
Tech Trek Welcome Back Party,  
Community Room,  
Stonestown Sports Basement**

**Rosaura Valle, TTAG Chair**



2020 Tech Trek selection who did not make it to camp due to the pandemic.



Tech Trek parents contributed many interesting questions, and the tour got extended. They all had a blast! We are happy TTAG is able to benefit parents as well. Thank you Mary for making this possible!

### Tech Trek Parents attend VIP Tour at CalAcademy

Last December the Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) Program offered a field trip visit to the California Academy of Science as well as a VIP Tour including a 1-hour visit to the museum special specimen collection, gem vault, and its “green” roof. A few tickets were remaining, and on June 28 we were able to offer VIP Tours to some Tech Trek parents and other Tech Trek Alumnae, thanks to the generous contribution of Mary Renner, VP of Membership.

Featured in the photo are: Julie, 2023-2024 TTAG Board member, and Wryan 2022 TTA, in the front row, and new TTAGer Charlotte, in the second row, who was part of the





Rosaura Valle, TTAG Chair

### A country naturalist

Beatrix Potter was born in the mid 1800s to an upper class London family. As a young child, she and her younger brother Bertram spent more time with a nanny than with their own parents. They loved to spend as much time outdoors as possible, especially when the family took vacations in the Lake District or north into Scotland where they had an extended family. They romped freely in the woods drawing and observing the small animals and plants they collected and studied with great interest in their nursery schoolroom. They kept many small animals as pets, such as mice, rabbits, and hedgehogs. Their parents were both interested in nature and artistically talented as well, so illustrating their animals seemed to come naturally to the lonely children who had few playmates outside of their family.



Beatrix began making diaries and notebooks in which she sketched what she saw in great detail. She made up stories about the animals and illustrated them with her sketches. She recorded amusing insights into the country

living in her small almost cryptic script. As she grew older, she began to wish that she could publish some of her stories and become financially independent of her very conservative parents. Going off to college would not have been in the cards for her in her Victorian society. Her parents had frowned upon the young man to whom she had become engaged who sadly died of leukemia. By the time she was a young woman, she had become well schooled in the fields of mycology, botany, and entomology to name only a few.

During one of her family holidays up north, things began to change after she wrote a series of letters to Noah, a young relative of a former governess. The delightful tales of woodland life caught the attention of other readers to whom the letters were passed. It was suggested that Beatrix get them bound and published. This she managed to do after much trial and error. She even had to pay the publisher initially herself. The books took off quite quickly. Eventually over the years there were about twenty-three, purposely made small enough in size for little hands to hold. Peter Rabbit's adventure in Mr. Macgregor's garden being one of the best known ones. Beatrix used her royalties to buy a "cottage" and much farmland in the Lake District that she adored. This is where she spent the rest of her life, continuing to write, illustrate, and design merchandise based on her engaging characters. Sadly Bertram had passed away at a young age. It was her intention to preserve and restore farms in order to protect the country lifestyle. She became a prosperous farmer, land management proponent, and a prize winning breeder of heritage Hardwick sheep and Galloway cattle.

The Lake District remains a beautiful area of England to visit today. Beatrix Potter's house is now owned by the National Trust of the UK as was her wish. She is credited with preserving much of the land that now makes up the Lake District National Park.



It is interesting to note that Beatrix's fine horticulture drawings of fungi and lichens had initially been rejected when she made her first attempts to present her paper at the all male London Linnaean botanical society. Using her microscope and frequent visits to the natural history museum, she had drawn some new conclusions as to the relationship between those two types of plants not yet well understood. The society dismissed her drawings without even looking at them. Furious, she left the meeting but noted in her diary that her idea would be in all the books in ten years or so. A century or so later the Linnaean Society issued an apology of sorts. Her scientific drawings are still studied by scientists worldwide.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

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

[www.newyorker.com/news/authors](http://www.newyorker.com/news/authors)

**Pat Camarena**



### August Birthdays

Peg Jackson	August 10
Elizabeth Ray	August 15
Linda Miller	August 21
Persis Ainey	August 23
Nancy Shapiro	August 25
Kathlyn Hart Alford	August 25

**AAUW-SF Board**

**Contact Us:**

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

**Co-Presidents**

Barbara Spencer  
Roli Wendorf

**Treasurer**

Kelly Joseph

**Treasurer's Assistants**

Barbara Spencer  
Roli Wendorf

**Secretary**

Rosaura Valle

**Membership Vice President**

Mary Renner

**Website**

Roli Wendorf

**Avanti Editor**

Cyndi Bireley

**Silver Jubilee Fund Chair**

Barbara Spencer

**Voter Information**

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

*"I'd rather regret the risks that didn't work out than the chances I didn't take at all."*



*Simone Biles*



**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.