

Month at a Glance

September 4, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Rosaura Valle

September 7, 2:00 p.m.

Tech Trek Welcome Back Party - IN PERSON

Sports Basement, Stonestown Galleria, San Francisco, CA 94132

- Contact: Rosaura Valle

September 9, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – via ZOOM

- Contact: Roli Wendorf

September 16, 7:00 p.m.

International Book Group - IN PERSON

- Book/Author: The Women by Kristin Hannah
- Hostess: Nancy Shapiro

September 18, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch - IN PERSON

- Colibri Mexican Bistro
- 50 Moraga San Francisco, CA 94129
- Contact: Mary Suter

September 19, 6:30 p.m.

Mystery/Adventure Book Group – via ZOOM

- Annual Book Choice Meeting
- Please send your book choices to Roli Wendorf by 9/8
- RSVP (to receive link): contact Elaine Butler

September 20, 1:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Book Group – IN PERSON

- Book: Please bring your book suggestions for our reading during the upcoming year
- Hostess: Paula Campbell

September 21, 10:00 a.m.

Professional Networking Women Group - via ZOOM

“Designing your Life” presented by Rosaura Valle

- Contact: Rosaura Valle

September 26, 7:00 p.m.

Tech Trek Committee Meeting - via ZOOM

- Contact: Roli Wendorf

Co-President’s Message

The national elections have new momentum with the historic candidacy of Vice President Kamala Harris. She is such a powerful, inspiring role model for all women, especially women of color. The enthusiastic response to her candidacy gives hope that this great barrier to the highest office in the land may also be broken. As we work to provide opportunities for women at AAUW, it is good to see that small, incremental steps do lead to giant leaps forward over time.

We have a few interesting programs of our own coming up this month. We will be welcoming back our 2024 Tech Trekkers on Saturday, September 7 at 2:00 PM at the Sports Basement in Stonestown Galleria Mall. We have asked each of the campers to briefly, in 1-2 minutes, describe some highlights of their camp experiences. It should be very interesting! They will also spend time with our TTAG students who will inspire them to join TTAG for further learning experiences in STEM and college readiness. We hope you will join us at the Welcome Back event.

Our Women’s Professional Networking Group will be kicking off the year with a discussion with a broader focus which would be interesting for all members. Rosaura will lead a discussion titled, “Designing Your Life”. It is based on a course and book from Stanford about how to make life changes to lead a happier, more fulfilling life. It can pertain to one’s work life specifically or more generally to all of life. This event will be held on Zoom on Saturday, September 21 at 10:00 AM. The Zoom link will be sent out to all branch members by email.



Other events coming up later in the fall are a voter education session in October organized by Sheila Bost, and a talk by Susan Pollack in November on managing your critical estate planning related documents and information. We will have more information on these events as we get closer. In the meantime, be sure to renew your membership if you haven't done so already. Happy September!

Roli Wendorf, Co-President

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

Women's Professional Networking Group

DESIGNING YOUR LIFE WORKSHOP

Saturday September 21, 2024 at 10 AM - via zoom

Presented by Rosaura Valle

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

From AAUW California:

Public Policy Priorities & the Elections

Welcome to another presidential election year in the United States! We have you covered with All The Resources.

In September, the Public Policy Committee will:

- Present a webinar on Get Out the Vote. More details to follow soon.
- Provide information on the California ballot initiatives that we are supporting.

Provide Candidate Comparison Guides for competitive Congressional races in California. These guides will focus on the races where an incumbent whose values are consistent with our public policy priorities is in danger of losing their seat, and where an incumbent whose values are not consistent with our priorities is being challenged by a candidate whose values align with ours. The guides will serve to educate voters on the candidates' positions

- on AAUW-supported issues. The competitive districts we have identified thus far are Districts 13, 22, 27, 45, 48, 49, 41.

During the current election cycle, the Public Policy Committee will be putting out a series of election resources. As part of these resources, we will highlight some AAUW California Public Policy Priorities (PPPs) that are rising as central issues in the upcoming election and give you the tools to do your own candidate assessments.

The first PPP we highlighted is Title IX Protections; see the August issue of [Public Policy News](#) for more information.

Although the 2024 legislative session won't end until this fall, the governor has already started to sign bills. We are excited to let you know that three bills on our agenda have already been signed, AB 1955, AB1790, and AB2608. Hooray!

AB 1955 will prohibit school districts from requiring staff to notify parents if a student uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than what is on their birth certificate. California is the first state in the nation to ban forced outings of transgender students.

AB 1790 will strengthen protections against sexual assault and harassment at California State University (CSU) campuses by requiring two reports from CSU on the status of their implementation of the State Auditor recommendations.

AB 2608 will require the California Community Colleges and the CSUs, and request the University of California, to provide educational and preventive information on sexual violence and harassment, including how to recognize if someone is at risk of drug-facilitated sexual assault.

A school board candidate questionnaire is now available, courtesy of the AAUW Fallbrook Branch. This is an

excellent vetting tool. If a candidate approaches you for an endorsement or other support, ask them to complete this [questionnaire](#), which also can be found on the Public Policy website in the School Project toolkit.

Learn how to reduce polarization through talk. Check out [THIS GUIDE](#), written by Missy, to learn more about how you might approach difficult conversations during election season.

Events from AAUW National



In Conversation with Dr. Tiya Miles

Thursday, September 5, 2 p.m. EST

Join CEO Gloria L. Blackwell for a conversation with AAUW Community Action Grantee, Tiya Miles, Ph.D., about her book "Wild Girls: How the Outdoors Shaped Women Who Challenged a Nation."

Gloria and Dr. Miles will discuss her latest work that puts girls of all races — and the landscapes they loved — at center stage and reveals the impact of the outdoors on women's independence, resourcefulness, and vision. It focuses on trailblazing women of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—from Harriet Tubman to Louisa May Alcott to Dolores Huerta. Navigating the woods, following the stars, playing sports, and taking to the streets in peaceful protest were not only joyful pursuits, but also techniques to resist assimilation, racism, and sexism. *Wild Girls* evokes landscapes as richly as the girls who roamed in them—and argues for equal access to outdoor spaces for young women of every race and class today.

REGISTER NOW

Dr. Tiya Miles is the author of nine books, including multiple prize-winning histories about race and slavery in the American past. They include, "All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake," a New York Times bestseller that won 11 historical and literary prizes, including the 2021 National Book Award for Nonfiction and the 2022 Cundill History Prize. It was also named A Best Book of the Year by The New York Times, The Washington Post, and more. Other acclaimed scholarly works include: "The Dawn of Detroit," "Tales from the Haunted South," "The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story," and "Ties That Bind".



Dr. Miles is currently the Michael Garvey Professor of History and Radcliffe Alumnae Professor at Harvard University, and Director, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University. Among many others, her work has been supported by a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, the Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In Conversation with Tiya Miles Registration Link

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GX5-es7FQDaJH6OBobplMw?emci=25f97dbb-625a-ef11-991a-6045bddd4b&emdi=06727466-d65f-ef11-991a-6045bddd4b&ceid=28636662#/registration



You're Invited: AAUW Member Gathering
 Tuesday, September 10, 4 p.m. ET

We're excited to invite you to our upcoming Member Gathering!

At this special event, we will:

- Recognize outstanding supporters and branches
- Share updates on our work in Policy, Programs, and Membership
- Connect with fellow AAUW members

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our achievements and learn about our latest initiatives.

[Register Now!](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

- AAUW

AAUW Member Gathering Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y3wi7df-R0WYvcAik3WkvQ?emci=3da9c0a0-0a5b-&emdi=d15b1cbb-5c65-ef11-991a-6045bdd9e096&ceid=28636662#/registration

A Well Dressed "Ambassador"

This Shanghai-born lady, named Mayling Soong, spent much of her early educational years in the American South (hence her soft Georgia accent) & later at Wellesley in Massachusetts where she earned her college graduate degree. Upon returning to China, her life took a significant sharp turn that would determine the course of the rest of her long life.

While she was a member of Shanghai's Child Labor Committee, she met an older man.. Chiang Kai Shek was a rising star in the Chinese military. Her parents were not

thrilled. He was already married and not yet a Christian. Those issues were resolved. They married.

Generalissimo Chiang would become the leader of the Nationalist Party engaged in a struggle with Communist factions which would continue for the rest of his life. May-ling began to play a prominent role in the politics of the Republic of China and held many honorary and active positions.



As WWI loomed she spent much time traveling internationally raising money to help China's defense against Japan. She became her husband's translator, advisor, and negotiator.. Mai Ling (Madame Chiang Kai-Shek) became the first Chinese national and the second woman to ever address a joint session of the US House and Senate. None of these efforts was without controversy and criticism concerning how the resulting financial support was used. During the post-war years she continued to play a prominent role in the establishment of schools for war orphans of Chinese soldiers.

Internationally she served as a patron of the International Red Cross Committee.

Always dressed "to the nines", Mai Ling was the first honorary member of the Chinese Bill of Rights Society, established to promote women's rights and better economic opportunities. For a while she seemed to many as the symbol of the modern educated pro-American China that the world hoped for. Even so, many Chinese put her down as a corrupt power hungry symbol of the past, soon hopefully to be replaced.

www.wellesley1.edu

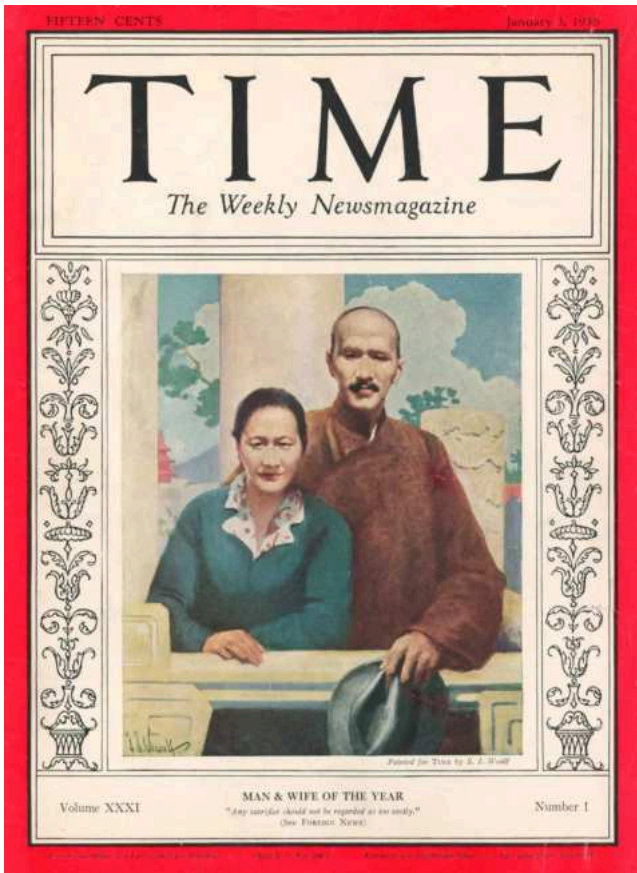
www.nytimes.com (2003/10/24)

www.time.com

Pat Camarena



September Birthdays



Barbara Spencer	September 11
Karen Cancino	September 18
Mary Worth	September 18
Pat Metzgar	September 21
Janice Gonsalves	September 24
Mardi Kildebeck	September 25
Jane Hansen	September 30

AAUW-SF Board**Contact Us:**aauwsfbranch@gmail.com**Co-Presidents**Barbara Spencer
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Rosaura Valle

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

Kelly Joseph

"Living coherently doesn't mean everything is in perfect order all the time. It means you are living in alignment with your values and have not sacrificed your integrity along the way."



Bill Burnett, Designing Your Life: Build a Life that Works for You

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.