

## Month at a Glance

**October 2, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.**

TTAG Committee Meeting

**October 7, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Board Meeting

**October 14, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Voter Information Meeting

**October 18, 2024**

Friday Afternoon Book Club - IN PERSON

- Title/Author: The Phoenix Crown by Kate Quinn & Janie Chang

**October 24, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Title/Author: The Mystery of the Blue Train by Agatha Christie

Location - Via Zoom

**November 9, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Talk – Organizing Important Estate Information and Documents - via ZOOM

**December 7, 2024 @ noon**

Holiday Lunch – Balboa Café, 3199 Fillmore St.

## Co-Presidents' Message



### Tech Trek

We had a very successful Tech Trek Welcome-Back Event on Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Stonestown Sports Basement Community Room. I'm sorry more branch members weren't there to hear from the girls we sent to camp. We sent 6 girls to camp at CSU Fresno, 9 girls to camp at UC Santa Cruz, and 2 girls to virtual camp. All were enthusiastic about their program and opportunity to make new friends. It's really heartwarming to see the girls and experience their excitement. A bonus was hearing from the parents and their interest in joining our branch.

### Membership

We are doing well on membership renewals. As you may have noticed, not all memberships expire at the end of June. There is now a revolving date depending on when your last renewal was. Please act on the email renewal notices when you receive them to save us from extra paperwork.

### Voter Information Meeting October 14, 7PM

Sheila Bost has arranged with Joel Engardio, District 4 SF Supervisor, to discuss local and state ballot measures. (awonast@earthlink.net). Joel has met with us before and has always given a well-rounded picture of the various measures. If

The meeting will be at her house. Please RSVP Sheila. Joel has met with us before and has always given a well-rounded picture of the various measures. If you are unable to attend on October 14, I have found one website so far that gives a nonpartisan description of the ballot measures. It is: [calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024](https://calmatters.org/california-voter-guide-2024)

#### Future Dates

November 9, 10 am: Zoom talk by Susan Pollack on Organizing Important Estate Information and Documents. More information to follow.

December 7, 12 noon - Holiday Lunch at Balboa Cafe, 3199 Fillmore St., San Francisco. It will be \$40 per person with a limit of 22 people. RSVP by sending a check. Checks should be made payable to AAUW-SF and mailed to Barbara Spencer. Please join us at these upcoming events.

### Organizing Important Estate Information and Documents

Talk by Susan Pollack, AAUW San Francisco Branch

Saturday, November 9 at 10:00 AM on Zoom

Susan Pollack is a retired lawyer. Here is Susan's description of the talk:

"The program on organizing important information and documents came out of my own experience. As part of the process of writing a new will, etc. When I became a full time California resident, I realized I needed to create a document of critical information for my children/executors. To do that, I started by creating an outline of the information they would need, then filled in the outline. As I described this process to my friends, many of them asked for a copy of my outline, or even asked me to go over with them the thinking behind the outline. At some point I realized that sharing this process and outline could be useful to lots of people, and I started doing that in group discussions. I now hold these presentations/discussions through San Francisco Village, the SF Public Library and other organizations. I learn something each time (these are discussions), since what I needed for my outline was personal to me, and there are lots of other issues and needs which come up, which is why my outline has a "last revised" date. And why the discussions are always interesting."

#### Zoom Link

Topic: Webinar: Organizing Estate Planning Documents and Information

Time: Nov 9, 2024 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88900211655?pwd=nBjW4fhtJzBNAVwFyYE6kpEPkbVlar.1>

Meeting ID: 889 0021 1655

Passcode: 594786

Tech Trek Welcome Back Party, Rosaura Valle, TTAG Chair





## ROCKET SCIENCE



In 2010, a beaming President Obama had the pleasure of awarding the National Medal of Technology and Innovation to Mrs. Yvonne Brill. This award, although wonderful of course, followed in the wake of many other honors bestowed upon her during her long engineering career in advancing spacecraft propulsion technology. In that same year, she had also been inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for her work in the Dual Thrust Monopropellant Spacecraft System/ for which she held the patent.

Yvonne, the child of Belgian immigrants, was raised in Manitoba, Canada. Amelia Earhart was one of her early heroes. Young Yvonne was the first person in her family to apply for college. Her interest in pursuing a career in science was not encouraged by teachers or family members. Yvonne did not give up. Because the school of engineering at the University of Manitoba had no "facilities" for women students, she was denied entrance. Undaunted, she graduated in 1945 at the top of her class with degrees in both chemistry and mathematics. By 1951, she had a Masters Degree from USC. Douglas Aircraft hired her even though she did not have an engineering degree. She became one of the few women to work with rocket propellants



including the first American satellites under development. During her long career, she was involved in a broad range of national space programs in the United States including NASA and the International Maritime Satellite Organization.

Whenever she was called upon to speak about her work it was always her hope that she would be able to influence the girls and women whom she met to consider a career such as hers designing rocket systems for future missions as we humans continue to explore

the "final frontiers" of space.

[www.nae.edu](http://www.nae.edu)

[www.ethu.org](http://www.ethu.org). (oral history)

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

**From AAUW California:****Public Policy Priorities & the Elections**

Welcome to another presidential election year in the United States!

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.

## October Birthdays



Mary Jane Mikuriya	October 8
Harriett Sollod	October 10
Michelle Mammini	October 13
Susan Pollack	October 16
Esther Wong	October 23
Patricia Spencer	October 27
Leslie Yuan	October 27

Carol Robinson                      October 1

Cathy Corcoran                      October 3

**AAUW-SF Board****Contact Us:**[aauwsfbranch@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsfbranch@gmail.com)**Co-Presidents**

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Roli Wendorf

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Barbara Spencer  
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**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

“

"Think like a queen. A queen is  
not afraid to fail. Failure is  
another steppingstone to  
greatness."

OPRAH WINFREY  
TV Host and CEO





**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.

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>