



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

November 2024

Month at a Glance

November 9, 2024 @ 10:00a.m. - via ZOOM

Talk – Organizing Important Estate Information and Documents, Susan Pollack, AAUW San Francisco Branch

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88900211655?pwd=nBjW4fhtzBNAwFyYkpkEPkVlYar.1>
 Meeting ID: 889 0021 1655
 Passcode: 594786

November 15, 2025 @ 1:30 p.m. - AAUW SF Friday Afternoon Book

Place: Anni Puckett's home

November 18, at 7:00 p.m. - International Book Group

Book/Author: "Frozen River," by Ariel Lawson
 Hostess: Mary Graves.
 Note: There will be no meeting in December.

November 20, 2024 @ noon- Lunch Bunch

Hostess: Sushi Sheng

November 21, 2024 @ 7:30 pm - Mystery/Adventure

Book/Author: A Refiner's Fire by Donna Leon
 Location: ZOOM
 Discussion Leader: Susanne
 NE members are invited to join us.

December 7, 2024 @ noon - Holiday Lunch

Balboa Café, 3199 Fillmore St.

- Space Limited – please RSVP to Barbara Spencer

Co-Presidents' Message

Voter Education

The national elections are around the corner. I



have my fingers crossed for a good outcome.

The local elections for us in

San Francisco are very important too, with the mayor and many district supervisors on the ballot. We also have a total of 25 ballot measures to vote on – 10 from the state and 15 local. We were fortunate to have a very informative voter education session with Joel Engardio, SF District IV supervisor at the home of Sheila Bost on October 14. Joel explained the many shades of blue of SF politics and which candidates subscribed to which shade. He also pointed out the importance of making use of rank choice voting by including at least your first and second preferences. He also discussed each of the propositions and answered our questions. Thanks Joel, and thank you Sheila

for arranging the event. We also enjoyed Sheila's hospitality and her amazing baking!

Talk on Critical Estate Documents and Information



Our member Susan Pollack, a retired attorney, will be giving us a talk on handling your critical estate related documents and information on Saturday, November 9, at 10:00 AM on Zoom. The talk is based on Susan's experiences. She has been invited to present this information at a number of forums such as SF Village and SF Public Library. We will send out the Zoom link to all branch members by email and also a link to a checklist related to the talk for your reference. We hope you will attend.

Roli Wendorf

Holiday Luncheon

We're in November, which means the Holidays are not far. Our branch Holiday Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 7 at 12:00 PM at Balboa Café, 3199 Fillmore St., San Francisco. The cost is \$40 per person, and we have a maximum limit of 22 attendees. Please reserve your spot by sending an RSVP to Barbara Spencer, along with a check for \$40 made payable to AAUW-SF and mailed to Barbara.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Other Activities

The Women's Professional Networking Group discussion led by Rosaura on "Designing Your Life" was lively and informative, and was well received. I think each of us took back some ideas of simple changes or enhancements for a



happier and more fulfilling life. Since that talk, I have started playing bridge online with friends once a week, and also joined a mindfulness program! Coincidence, or maybe not?

Tech Trek planning has already started for the 2025 camps. Anne Leung and Maggy Kepler are attending the SFUSD information session on October 19 to gather contact information for various middle schools in the district. Some TTAG members are also helping us with contact information from their middle schools. We will be ready to reach out to schools in early January for the 2025 camper nominations. In the meantime, we request you to send us donations for Tech Trek once again. Your generosity helps us make these camps free for all the girls and their families. To learn more about how to donate, please check our website **HERE**.

Josephine vs. the Industrial Age

The Industrial Age in America really took off after the Civil War ended. There were advancements in steel production, railroads, and other technologies. The life of the everyday housewife was much slower to change. Josephine Garis-Cochrane found herself, a young mother of two, living in Illinois. She had married a successful dry goods merchant who aspired to move up the ranks in the Democratic Party. By 1870 they had moved into a mansion. Their social life required the giving of fancy dinner parties using their best and most expensive heirloom dishware. Josephine began to notice that the servants hired for the cleanup were constantly chipping the cups and plates. To prevent more breakage, Josephine decided to wash the tableware herself. This task soon became drudgery. Exasperated, she began to search for a better solution so as to relieve housewives from the duty of washing dishes after every meal.



As a young girl, she had often watched as her civil engineer father designed machinery. There had been earlier plans to develop commercially viable mechanical dishwashers. Those models had not been very effective. Josephine was undeterred. She drew detailed plans for a better machine that used a different washing method.

After the death of her husband, she found herself without the means to pay off their debts and support her two daughters. She became very motivated to bring her design drawings into a concrete form. She found a mechanic to assist her with the original construction. The final model consisted of several different sized compartments of wire baskets attached to a rotating wheel which was located inside of a copper boiler. Hot water from above rained down on the dishes. Their dishwasher was the first to use water pressure instead of scrubbers to clean the dishes.

Now, on her own, she worked tirelessly to find customers and sell her product. Since women in that era rarely went out unescorted,

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Josephine found this task to be intimidating and terribly daunting; however, she persisted. She found more buyers among hotels and restaurants which required a high volume of clean and sanitary dishes on a regular basis. Individual householders did not show much interest in buying such an expensive item for such a simple daily task. At this time the majority of homes had not yet installed hot water heaters.

Fortunately, The World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 proved to be a turning point in Josephine's business. Nine Garis-Cochrane dishwashers were installed in the restaurants and pavilions at the fair and drew great interest. She won the prize for "best mechanical construction, durability, and adaptation to its line of work" at the fair. Her company was renamed as Cochran's Crescent Washing Machine Company in 1897. In 1898 she opened her own factory. She hired as manager the same mechanic (George Butters) who had helped her build the original prototype in her backyard. Most of her customers continued to be hotels and restaurants. As time went on, she was able to extend the company's sales as far north and south from Mexico to Alaska.

It was not into the 1950s that dishwashers became popular for home usage. Her tiny company eventually became part of KitchenAid, and later, part of Whirlpool Corporation.

Josephine Cochran was posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2006 for patent #355,139 issued on December 28, 1886.

Patricia Camarena



November Birthdays

Sandra Martino	11/5
Alicia Hetman	11/7
Sherry Bridygham	11/8
Anna Yang	11/19
Roli Wendorf	11/19
Kathleen Cha	11/22
Aisha Sawatsky	11/25
Andrea Lawdale	11/26
Rosaura Valle	11/28
Kelly Joseph	11/19

Avanti Editor

AAUW

San Francisco Branch

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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-SF Board**Contact Us:**

aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

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Roli Wendorf

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Kelly Joseph



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.



“*No Country Can Ever Truly Flourish
If It Stifles The Potential Of Its Women
And Deprives Itself Of The
Contributions Of Half
Of Its Citizens.*”

Michelle Obama
(Former 'First Lady of the United States)

 quotes.mirrorreview.com