



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

December 2024

Month at a Glance

December 4, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.

via Zoom

- TTAG-Committee-Meeting

December 5, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

via Zoom

- Tech-Trek-Committee-Meeting
- Contact: [Rolf Wendorf](#)

December 7, 2024 @ noon

- Holiday-Lunch
- Balboa-Café, 3199-Fillmore-St.
- Space-Limited
- RSVP-to-Barbara-Spencer

December 19 @ noon

- Mystery/Adventure-Potluck-Holiday-Party
- The-Heaven-and-Earth-Grocery-by-James-McBride
- Discussion-Leader: [Sandra Tye](#)

December 20, 2024 @ 1:30p

- AAUW-SF-Friday-Afternoon-Book-Group
- Atonement by Ian-McEwan
- Mary-Renner's-Home

Co-Presidents' Message

There still may be time to sign up for our Holiday Lunch on Saturday, December 7, 12 noon at the Balboa Cafe. Contact me if you wish to come.



There is a firm limit of 22 people. We are delighted to have this in-person lunch.

On Pursuing Architecture Talk by Aisha Sawatsky

This talk will be held on Saturday, January 11, at 10AM on Zoom as part of the next Women's Professional Networking Group meeting. Branch member Aisha Sawatsky, a designer and preservation specialist working on historic



buildings throughout the Bay Area. Aisha will talk about her academic and professional journey towards becoming a licensed architect and discuss the various forks and detours on that journey. A selection of historic preservation projects will be presented. The meeting promises to be very interesting. Mark your calendars!

Tech Trek

We are already at work on plans for the 2025 and plan to send 15 girls to camps at CSU Fresno and UC Santa Cruz. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please make your check payable to AAUW-CA SPF and mail it to me (Barbara Spencer). I then forward it to the appropriate camp treasurer.

Event Recap

We had a very successful and well-attended zoom event on November 9. Branch member Susan Pollack presented a talk on Organizing Critical Documents and Information regarding estate-related issues. The attendees had many questions and comments on the outline of items she has compiled. Susan has presented this information to a number of groups. Our thanks to Susan!

THE BLACK SWAN and The SWEDISH NIGHTINGALE

The well known and greatly admired operatic singer Jenny Lind, was often referred to as the "Swedish Nightingale" because of her sweet soprano voice. It is said that she inspired Hans Christian Andersen to write his fairy tale by that name. She was raised by a divorced mother who ran a day school from her home. Jenny's musical talent was recognized early. She gained admission to the Royal Dramatic Training Academy. She began singing on stage at the age of ten. Once some voice crises were addressed, she was in great demand in operatic roles throughout northern Europe.,



In 1850, after her retirement from touring at age 29, she was persuaded by showman, P.T. Barnum, to tour the United States in 1850.

Jenny was planning to donate much of her proceeds to Swedish educational charities. Concurrently, in

Mississippi, Elizabeth Greenfield was growing up under very different and difficult circumstances. Elizabeth had been born into slavery. However, she barely knew her actual parents. The plantation owner later moved to Philadelphia taking Elizabeth to live with her. She manumitted her, paid her wages, and saw that she was educated in a private Quaker School. Unfortunately following the death of her former "owner", Elizabeth was shut out of any inheritance. She was left without any income or place to call home. In order to earn a living, she began to work as a music teacher and as a singer at private parties. The quality of her wide-ranging singing voice both as a soprano and tenor soon found a

widely appreciative audience. She hired an agent to However, he often took advantage of her financially. were not allowed to attend her concerts due to racist slavery news articles hounded her. In 1852, she toured probably the first Black woman to sing opera

Whereas Jenny Lind was often advertised as "Nightingale", Elizabeth Greenfield began to be "Swan". Local financial backing enabled her to study After a concert at Buckingham Palace, Queen Victoria to finance Elizabeth's passage home. Seeing a making client in the "Black Swan", Barnum offered to represent her. She declined.



book her tours. Often Black patrons local laws. Pro and anti-in Canada. She was professionally there.

the "Swedish referred to as the "Black and tour in England. gave her enough money potential money

In 1853, Elizabeth debuted in New York City before an audience of 4,000. No Black persons would be admitted as there had been no separate seating arranged. At just about the same time, as Elizabeth was beginning to be recognized for her musical talents, Jenny Lind began her grueling (P.T. Barnum financed) east coast musical schedule. She was eager to return to Sweden to give some of her earnings to a Swedish educational charity. Jenny had difficulty collecting the money she had been promised. She was well received by American audiences but sailed back to Europe never to return. Even after the start of the Civil War, Elizabeth continued to tour, raising money for charity in the North. She raised funds to support Black Union soldiers. After the war, she lived in Philadelphia, ran a music school and supported many African American causes.

For many years after returning to Sweden, Jenny Lind gave occasional concerts. She donated the proceeds to charities that supported free schools. Settling in England in 1882, she became a professor of singing at the Royal College of Music in London. It is unknown if Elizabeth Greenfield and Jenny Lind ever met or were aware of each other. It would have been interesting for them to discuss the difficulties facing women in pursuing their musical careers in the mid-1800s. The Nightingale and the Swan would most likely have had much to share with each other.

December Birthdays

Aisha Sawatsky

December 25



Available to view on YouTube
<https://youtu.be/ku1D3t6g1Lg>



Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security

Join us for an important webinar exploring the path forward for women's economic security under the next U.S. President and the 119th Congress. Expert panelists include: **Heather M. Boushey, Ph.D.**, 1997–98 AAUW American Fellow, economist and co-founder of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth
Jamila K Taylor, Ph.D., President & CEO of the Institute for Women's Policy Research
Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of American Association of University Women

Avanti Editor

AAUW

San Francisco Branch

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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>

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Rosaura Valle

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

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.



**Tremendous
amounts of talent
are being lost to our
society just because
that talent wears a
skirt.**

-Shirley Chisholm