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AVANTI

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February 2025

Month at a Glance

February 5 @ 7:30pm

TTAG-Committee-Meeting-Via-Zoom

Contact: Rosaura Valle



February 6 @ 7:00pm

Tek-Trek-Committee-Meeting

Contact: Roli Wendorf



February 17 @ 7:00pm

International-Book-Group

Book/Author: "The Secret War of Julia Child," by Diana Chambers

RSVP to Nancy Shapiro



February 18 @ 7:00pm

Tech-Trek-Parent/Student-Information-Session

Contact: Roli Wendorf



February 19 @ noon

Lunch-Bunch

Goat-Hill-Pizza-on-Potrero-Hill

300-Connecticut-St.-near-Eighteenth-St

RSVP: Mary Suter



February 21 @ 1:30pm

AAUW-SF-Friday-Afternoon-Book-Club

Patricia Spencer's home

The Golden Gate by Amy Chua

Coordinator: Michelle Mammini



February 27 7:30pm Zoom Book Club

The Comfort of Ghosts by Jacqueline Winspear

Discussion Leader: Susan Peliks

RSVP for Zoom Link: Elaine Butler



Co-Presidents' Message

Professional Networking Group

Aisha Sawatsky gave a fascinating presentation about her path to becoming an architect specializing in historical preservation. She had prepared a number of slides to illustrate her talk. Aisha did her undergraduate work in Ottawa, Canada and obtained a master's degree at the University of Virginia. While in graduate school she was awarded an AAUW fellowship. Aisha has been a member of our branch for several years. We all learned a lot about the road to becoming a licensed architect.

Our next Professional Networking meeting will be held on May 3, 2025 at 10:00 AM on Zoom. Anne Leung will lead a discussion on the book, *Mastering Your Inner Critic and 7 Other High Hurdles to Advancement* by Susan MacKenty Brady.

Tech Trek

Our Tech Trek Committee is hard at work contacting middle school math and science teachers to obtain nominations of girls to send to Tech Trek camp this summer. It is a multi-step process to ultimately obtain completed applications from the girls and permission from their parents. We will be interviewing the applicants on March 15 and 16, have a decision-making meeting on March 22. A number of members have already volunteered to serve as interviewers. We will also have members of TTAG (Tech Trek Alumnae Group) assisting with the interviews. Please contact me or Roli if you would like to participate in the interviews.

Please note that if you would like to donate to Tech Trek you should write a check payable to **AAUW-CA SPF** and send it to me (Barbara Spencer) or to our P.O. Box. I will then mail the check to the Tech Trek Camp Treasurer.

Silver Jubilee

One of the hats I wear is Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund Chair. I have taken over from Mary Suter who served as Chair for a number of

Lunch Bunch

Please Join us. We meet at a different restaurant on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Mary Suter has compiled an email list of those interested. If you are not on the email list, contact Mary Suter to be included.

years and was instrumental in converting the fund from a loan program to a scholarship one. We owe Mary our thanks for tending to the Silver Jubilee Fund so faithfully.

I have begun contacting San Francisco colleges and universities to publicize our scholarship program. As you may know, we award \$3,000 scholarships to women who are entering their last two years of graduate or undergraduate education at an accredited institution. The applicants must have a permanent San Francisco address or attend a school within 100 miles of San Francisco. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please refer her to our website aauwsf.org

Member News

Pat Camarena has been a regular Avanti article contributor. She has submitted stories about mostly unknown women who made significant contributions to society. Pat suffered a serious fall and will be unable to submit articles for several months. We wish her well in her recovery.

Barbara Spencer
Co-President



Welcome New Member – Rebecca Miller

Rebecca Miller has joined our AAUW Chapter. She has served as a Higher Education Administrator, University of California (Retired). BA, Auburn University; MS, Portland State University. Enjoys outdoor activities, travel, yoga, museums, reading recent fiction and keeping her little library well-stocked. Looks forward to serving as AAUW-SF Membership VP, 2025.

February Birthdays

Tracey Harding

February 2

Corrinne Sacks

February 25

Joan Varrone

February 28

**SAN FRANCISCO TTAG:
BEHIND THE SCENES EXPLORATORIUM VISIT
with the HEALDSBURG TTAG**

Exploratorium, Pier 15, San Francisco, Sunday January 12, 2025. 16 Tech Trek Alumnae, 2 TTAG Advisors - Maggy Kepler and I - are gathering at the Buckyball sculpture waiting for the Healdsburg TTAG group, composed of 13 students, 2 Advisors and 2 parent chaperones. As the Healdsburg group steps off the ferry, our group starts an organized front desk intake process. We are up for a good start as we gather in a luminous conference room where students are invited to sit next to someone they do not know.



Photo Credits: Maggy Kepler, Rosaura Valle, & Karla Rosen Healdsburg TTAG

Deirdre Araújo, Director of Volunteer Engagement at the Exploratorium and former San Francisco branch President, has generously opened the doors to our TTAGers for the third time, offering them a unique and exciting behind the scene Exploratorium experience. After lunch and short introductions from all the Advisors and Exploratorium volunteers, the students split between the Biology Lab Tour and the Exhibit Development Shop.

Sonia Castillo, Senior Living Systems Lab Technician supports and maintains all the Life Science related exhibits on the Exploratorium floor, together with 5-6 other lab managers and technicians. This means growing a variety of living organisms from fruit flies and chicken eggs, to aquarium creatures, such as sea urchins and starfish, not to mention the zebrafish facility, where fish are bred on a daily basis. In the Plant lab, plants involved in a variety of exhibits are grown, together with some pet plants the staff enjoys taking care of, such as a carnivorous plant and a rapid movement plant, named *Mimosa pudica*, which rescinds its leaves upon contact.

Here is how Maggy summarized, in her own words, her Exploratorium experience:

“Part of our group enjoyed receiving a behind the scenes tour of the Exhibit Development Lab with Exhibit Developer Denise King. Denise talked us through the development, prototyping, and trial process for exhibits, including how developers work with other STEM professionals to gain inspiration for new projects. We had the opportunity to see the MANY materials and tools that developers use as a part of the design process, and hear about Denise's experiences during her training and career development.

One of my favorite parts of the development lab is how it is open for public viewing, encouraging all visitors to take a peek!"

The behind the scenes Career Chat, where device Quality (PhD candidate at UC resources), Monica Lin working on biosensors in Chloe Nelson (a field environmental reviewer Protection Agency) challenges, and the floor. The SF-TTAG enjoyed the personal women in STEM, finding small in-person setting.



visit was followed by a STEM volunteers Taylor Lacey (Apple Controller), Jasmine McAdams Berkeley in energy and green (PhD in bioengineering, now a medical device company), and geologist who has become an at the EPA - Environmental described their career path, answered many questions from students particularly connection with the young it easier to ask questions in a

The visit ended with everyone freely venturing around the Exploratorium galleries. One of the floor exhibits I had fun with features a live zebrafish at a given stage of development on a microscope slide. The image observed



through the microscope is magnified on a touch screen for the public. Activating special knobs that change the focus and field of observation, the public can observe different parts of the zebrafish body to visualize the fish heart beat. The whole process is facilitated by the fact that the zebrafish is transgenic for the green fluorescent protein marker, and therefore appears green.

The Exploratorium is all about awe, curiosity and about the "why" and "how" of things around us. With 650+ exhibits, we learn something new at every visit, and the Exploratorium never ceases to amaze us.

Help for those who have been devastated by the fires in the Los Angeles area

Our hearts go out to everyone who has been devastated by the fires in the Los Angeles area. The images we see on the news and on social media are horrific and can only be worse in person. Several of the fires, which have been predicted by climate scientists for years, are still not under control, so more destruction is likely. As before with the Maui and Paradise fires, members are wondering how they can support their fellow AAUW members during this difficult time.

Here is a list of several reputable organizations that are supporting recovery efforts in the Los Angeles area at this time.

Organizations supporting victims:

- Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE)- <https://www.coreresponse.org/donate-emergency-response-fund/>
- American Red Cross- 1-800-RED-CROSS, text the word REDCROSS to 90999 or visit <http://redcross.org/>
- United Way of Greater Los Angeles- <https://unitedwayla.org/>
- Salvation Army- <https://socal.salvationarmy.org/southern-california/wildfires-in-los-angeles/>

Organizations supporting firefighters:

- California Fire Foundation- <https://www.cafirefoundation.org/>
- Lost Angeles Fire Department Foundation- <https://supportlafd.org/>
- Widows, Orphans and Disabled Firefighters Fund- <https://www.wodff.org/>

Organizations helping animals:

- Pasadena Humane- <https://pasadenahumane.org/eaton-canyon-fire-update/>
- Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation- <https://lacountyanimals.org/>

Los Angeles Animal Services- <https://www.laanimalservices.com/>

There have been multiple Go Fund me campaigns set up to help those who have lost homes as well. Keep an eye out for any campaigns assisting members in your community.

Please keep our fellow AAUW California members and their families in your thoughts and prayers and donate if you are able. Having a community of friends like AAUW might be very helpful right now.

Stay safe,

CharmenGoehring
AAUW California President

<p>AAUW-SF Board</p> <p>Contact Us: aauwsfbranch@gmail.com</p> <p>Co-Presidents Barbara Spencer Roli Wendorf</p> <p>Treasurer Kelly Joseph</p> <p>Treasurer's Assistants Barbara Spencer Roli Wendorf</p>	<p>Secretary Rosaura Valle</p> <p>Membership Vice President Mary Renner</p> <p>Website Roli Wendorf</p> <p>Avanti Editor Cyndi Bireley</p> <p>Silver Jubilee Fund Chair Barbara Spencer</p>	<p>Voter Information Sheila Bost</p> <p>Tech Trek Coordinators Barbara Spencer Roli Wendorf</p> <p>Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) Chair Rosaura Valle</p> <p>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator Kelly Joseph</p>
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AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

<p>Marie Curie & AAUW</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>Academie des Sciences</i> 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.</p>	<p>Pay Equity</p> <p>AAUW has been on the front lines fighting for Pay Equity for over a hundred years.</p> <p>AAUW was there in the Oval Office in 1963 when President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law.</p> <p>AAUW was there in 2009 when President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>AAUW will continue the fight to achieve pay equity; the economic security of American families depends on it.</p>	<p>Legal Advocacy Fund</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The LAF Board only approves support of cases which are currently involved in litigation, and that have the potential to set legal precedent.</p> <p>The Legal Advocacy Fund's annual Progress in Equity Award recognizes indicative and replicable college and university programs.</p>
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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>

