



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

March 2025

Month at a Glance

March 5 on zoom

TTAG Committee Meeting

Contact: Rosaura Valle

March 10 @ 7p.m. on Zoom

Board Meeting

Contact: Barbara Spencer

March 12 @ 7p.m. on Zoom

Tech Trek Interviews

Contact: [Roli Wendorf](#)

March 15-16 @ 9a.m. in person

Tech Trek Interviews

Junior League of San Francisco

2226 Fillmore St.

San Francisco, CA

Contact: [Roli Wendorf](#)

March 21 @ 1:30 p.m.

AAUW SF Friday Afternoon Book Club

American Kingpin by Nick Burton

Coordinator: [Michelle Mammini](#)

March 22 @10:00a.m. in person

Camper Selection Meeting

Contact: Barbara Spencer

March 27 @ 7:00p.m. via Zoom

Book/Author – What Have you Done? Shari Pena

Discussion Leader: Joanne Mandel

RSVP for Zoom – Elaine Butler

Co-Presidents' Message

I am writing this message from the Great White North – a beautiful, snow covered, small town called Westmeath, Ontario, Canada, about two hours from Ottawa. We have been here for the past two weeks to be with my husband's family. My 94 years old father-in-law is ailing and does not have much time remaining. This is also our first trip to Canada since the Trump administration, and we can feel how unpopular the U.S. has become because of the tariffs and other policies. People are canceling their winter getaways to Florida in large numbers, and we can hear exhortations to "buy Canadian". It is a lot of change in a month.

Tech Trek

We are in the thick of recruiting 7th grade girls for the 2025 Tech Trek summer camps to stimulate their interest in STEM fields. Our nomination process went very well, with 33 nominations from 9 different schools in SFUSD, as compared to 30 nominations from 6 schools last year. We are pleased we added three new schools this year. Currently, the nominated girls are working on their online applications which include a 400-500 word essay. We also held an information session for parents on February 18 regarding the camp and the application process. It was well attended.

Looking ahead, the applications are due on March 1. Anne Leung will begin scheduling interviews after that for the week-end of March 15-16. All interview volunteers can expect to hear from her in early March. We will also hold an information session to prepare all interviewers on March 12, and a selection meeting after the interviews on March 22. Several of you have volunteered already to help with interviewing, and we thank you for that. If someone is still interested in volunteering, please contact Barbara or me by March 1. Finally, we are still looking for donations for the Tech Trek camps. If you wish to donate to Tech Trek, please check our website [HERE](#).

Scholarships

This is also the time of the year when we receive applications for our scholarships. The deadline for the TTAG scholarships passed recently, on February 15. We are still accepting applications for the Silver Jubilee scholarships of \$3,000 each until March 15. If you know anyone who is interested in applying, please let Barbara know. Scholarship application information is also available on the website [HERE](#).

March Birthdays

Pat Camarena – 3/1

Mary Renner – 3/15

Paula Campbell – 3/16

Article submission by Rebecca Miller



“Reproductive Rights: Where Do We Go from Here?”
featuring noted journalist Emily Bazelon

**Silicon Valley branch hosts webinar “Reproductive
Rights: Where Do We Go from Here?” featuring
noted journalist Emily Bazelon**

JANUARY 24, 2025

On January 22, 2025, the Silicon Valley branch honored the 52nd anniversary of the 1973 *Roe v Wade* Supreme Court decision, which gave women the right to choose whether to continue a pregnancy, by hosting a “Reproductive Rights” webinar. More than 160 viewers tuned in from all over California for the Zoom meeting.

Speaker [Emily Bazelon](#), staff writer for the *New York Times Magazine*, senior research fellow at Yale Law School, and co-host of the *Slate* podcast *Political Gabfest*, has written on legal, feminist, and family issues—for example, how the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe* (Dobbs, 2022) impacts people seeking abortions.

“Dobbs in some ways was shocking, in others not a surprise,” said Bazelon. “One expected abortion to become more restricted, and the number of abortions to go down. But though 22 states enacted severe restrictions, the actual number of abortions went up. How could this be?”

First, a number of abortion clinics moved across state lines, avoiding restrictions. More important was the widespread availability of abortion pills. Before Dobbs, 50% of abortions were pill-induced; since Dobbs, 63% of abortions happen this way. During COVID, the FDA approved a network of “self-managed” abortion providers, while some companies

also added these pills to their health coverage plans. “This amounts to a huge shift in the tradition of care,” said Bazelon.

There are a few risks associated with self-managed abortion, but the more urgent consequence of Dobbs is the lack of care for problem pregnancies. In many states a doctor must judge that the mother’s life is at risk before performing a D&C, while a septic infection or loss of future fertility are deemed inadequate reasons for having an abortion. As a result of doctors’ fear of prosecution, there have been some well-publicized deaths, which have led to a shift in point of view regarding abortion rights. The passing of state ballot measures in support of abortion rights reflects this shift, now that lives are on the line.

But why did voters who supported abortion rights in Florida, Ohio, and other states vote for Trump, who had been prominently against them? First, Trump backed off from his extreme position and instead advocated “Leave the issue to the states,” which defused opposition. Second, abortion rights were not the top-of-mind issue for many voters.

“What happens next is up to Trump,” said Bazelon. “He stiff-armed the strongest opponents of abortion by distancing himself from a ban after 15 weeks.” However, he still has tools at hand. He could announce strict enforcement of the Comstock Act of 1892, which outlawed shipment of obscene materials, contraceptives, and abortion-related items or providing information about them. The provisions regarding contraceptives were repealed in the early 1970’s while the ban on shipping abortion materials has not been enforced for decades. If the Comstock Act were to be strictly enforced, it could have a huge impact on abortion availability.

In a little-remarked change last year, the Governor of Louisiana added mifepristone and misoprostol, the key elements in self-managed abortion pills, to its list of controlled substances. Other states may follow suit, despite the protest from the American College of Medical Toxicology that these substances in no way fit the medical definition.

In a Q&A period following her talk, Bazelon was asked about the effectiveness of “shield laws” that some states have passed to protect doctors who provide

abortion assistance to out-of-state patients from lawsuits. She was not optimistic, saying that long-standing “full faith and credit” precedents require states to cooperate in enforcing each other’s

judgments. It is not likely that a conservative Supreme Court would overrule these precedents. However, non-US sources are not affected by these laws.

The recording of the presentation may be viewed below. The presentation materials are available [HERE](#).

<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>

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**YOU MAY NOT
CONTROL ALL THE
EVENTS THAT HAPPEN
TO YOU, BUT YOU CAN
DECIDE NOT TO BE
REDUCED BY THEM.**



MAYA ANGELOU
POET

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