



# AVANTI

[sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net](http://sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net)

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

April 2025

## Month at a Glance

April 2 @ 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting

Contact: Rosaura Valle:

April 14 @ 7p.m. on Zoom Board Meeting

Contact: Barbara Spencer

April 16 @ noon Lunch Bunch Wednesday

Seal Rock Inn Restaurantt  
545 Lobel Ave.

April 18 @ 1:30 p.m. AAUW SF Friday Afternoon Book Club

Book/Author - MOTHER DAUGHTER TRAITOR SPY by

Susan Elia Macneil

Coordinator: Michelle Mammini

April 21 @ 7:00 p.m. International Book Club

Book/Author – Lady Tan’s Circle of Women by Lisa See

April 24 @ 7:30 p.m. via Zoom – contact Elaine Butler for link

Book/Author: First Lie Wins by, Ashley Elston

Discussion Leader: Mary Suter

April 28 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. State AAUW Zoom

Annual Event – see AAUW-CA website for details

- [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org)

## Co-Presidents' Message

### Tech Trek

The Tech Trek Committee interviewed 19 seventh grade girls on March 15 and 16 with the help of TTAG and AAUW branch volunteers. Our intrepid Tech Trek Co-Coordinator and Co-President Roli Wendorf was unable to join us because she finally contracted Covid. The adult interviewers met on March 22 to select our campers. We will send 5 girls to camp at CSU Fresno and 10 girls to UC Santa Cruz.

Mark your calendars for the Tech Trek Send-Off event on May 17 from 2-4 pm at the Bryant Street Sports Basement Community Room. All branch members are invited to attend. It's always great to see the excitement of the campers and their families.

### Dues

AAUW national has notified us national dues will increase by \$2 on April 1, making national dues \$74. State dues of \$20 and branch dues of \$1 remain the same for now. Thus, dues will be a total of \$95. In case you are wondering, AAUW national does a lot for us. They sponsor many webinars and advocate for legislation (or these days against threatened federal cuts and closures). The 2-minute activist program has resulted in 47,000 messages being sent to elected officials. Over 6,000 women received Work Smart/Start Smart training, and \$6.3 million went to AAUW American Fellows and Community organizations. Our dues are put to good use.

### Avanti

A reminder about submitting material for Avanti publication: (1) material should be emailed to [avanti.editor2024@gmail.com](mailto:avanti.editor2024@gmail.com); (2) the cutoff date for submission of material is the 24th of the month. We would love to see more articles. We thank Cyndi Bireley for taking over Avanti and doing such a great job.

### Silver Jubilee Scholarships

This year we received 15 applications from women attending a variety of colleges and universities. Our outreach efforts paid off!

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Now, our committee must decide how many and to whom the scholarships should go. The \$3,000 scholarships are intended to help women who live or go to school within 100 miles of San Francisco finish their last or penultimate year of undergraduate or graduate education.

### Professional Networking Group

Our next meeting will be Saturday, May 3 at 10 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. We may want to also discuss how to bring in more of the Tech Trek parents and new members to this group and possibly expand its focus. Stay tuned!

Happy April Fool's Day

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**



### A Shining Star Diminished Too Soon

Perhaps the foremost poet of the modern women's movement, Sylvia Plath's life and work remains controversial; even as her literary fame seems secure.

The facts of her short life include losing her father early in life. She published her first poem soon after this trauma and was intent on a literary career throughout her school years. She suffered her first bout of clinical depression while still a student at Smith College. After College a Fulbright Fellowship took her to England.

While there she met and married another published poet, Ted Hughes. Returning to the US to teach at Smith, her first book, *The Colossus*, was published.

After a return to England her first child was born. Later she would have a son. The marriage was not a happy one. Hughes was unfaithful. Sylvia's mental health continued to be fragile. Divorce followed. Their separation seemed to liberate her as a poet. She composed almost all of her literary treasures during the last year of her life. Although incredibly productive, neither a sense of achievement nor the presence of her little children shielded her from depression. It was in London during the winter of 1963 that she turned on the gas stove in her apartment and ended her life, her two young children not far away.

Writing is the ability to express every day beauty and tell a story that encapsulates all of humanity. This was what Sylvia did best. Sylvia Plath was finally at peace. The literary world would never forget her.

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\*\*\* Depression affects people in different ways and can cause a wide variety of symptoms. Symptoms of depression range from mild to severe. It's important to seek help if you think you may be depressed. Many people wait a long time before seeking help. However, it is best not to delay. The sooner you see a doctor, the sooner you can be on the way to recovery.\*\*\*

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

[www.mypoeticside.com](http://www.mypoeticside.com)

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

[www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com)

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

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

*Submitted by Pat Camarena*

### Membership Matters

Please join me in welcoming two new members to our Branch. Rebecca Miller, Membership VP

Joan Varrone \*\*\*\*With a background in finance, Joan is partially retired, although she still enjoys helping start-ups. She also likes reading, traveling with her husband and caring for rescue dogs. Joan is interested in being active in our branch.

Heida Biddle \*\*\*\*As a tech executive and mother of two girls, Heida has a full life. She joined our branch after hearing a Tech Trek talk. Her fingers are crossed that her daughter will join the campers this year. Heida is dedicated to supporting girls in STEM and is looking forward to contributing to AAUW-SF's efforts.

### April Birthdays



Joanne Mandel

April 6

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- *“A woman with a voice is by definition a strong woman.” – Melinda French Gates*



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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>

#### Upcoming AAUW Webinars

##### Defending Equity: Strengthening Our Collective Impact Series

Amid growing attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion, AAUW is taking action. This series equips members with key policy updates, advocacy strategies, and tools to strengthen our impact. Join one or all sessions to stay informed and take action!

##### AAUW: Standing Strong Against Attacks on Equity in Education

**March 26 | 6:00 p.m. ET**

Recent executive actions threaten diversity, equity, and

inclusion nationwide. Join us to learn about these policy changes, how they impact women and marginalized communities, and how AAUW is taking action to defend equity. Stay informed and discover ways to support our mission in this critical moment. [Register Here](#)

##### Building A Stronger AAUW

**April 1 | 7:00 p.m. ET**

Strong fundraising fuels AAUW's impact. This session, led by AAUW National's Advancement Committee, will provide strategies for successful branch fundraising. Learn about AAUW's budget, the Greatest Needs Fund, and hear directly from branches with proven fundraising success. Walk away with tools and resources to help your branch grow its financial support. [Register here](#)

##### AAUW Advocacy Strategies for In-District Meetings

**April 8 | 7:00 p.m. ET**

Face-to-face advocacy can drive real change. This session will guide members on how to set up in-district meetings with members of Congress, maximize town hall participation, and effectively use key talking points during the upcoming April congressional recess. Learn how to make your voice heard. [Register Here](#)

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**Funding Futures: Understanding Changes to Sex and Gender-Based Scholarship Programs**

April 15 | 7:00 p.m. ET

Navigating legal changes to sex-based scholarships can be

complex. This interactive session will provide information to AAUW branches on funding scholarships amid evolving regulations while staying true to our mission of advancing education for women and girls. Space is limited. [Register Here](#)



**AAUW-SF Board**

**Contact Us:**

[aauwsfbranch@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsfbranch@gmail.com)

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[Roli Wendorf](#)

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Kelly Joseph

**Treasurer's Assistants**

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Rosaura Valle

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Barbara Spencer

[Roli Wendorf](#)

**Tech Trek Alumnae Group**

**(TTAG) Chair**

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.

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