

Month at a Glance

June 4, 7:30 p.m. TTAG Committee Meeting via ZOOM

Contact: Rosaura Valle

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June 14 at Noon, Annual Branch Meeting and Lunch

Alice's Chinese Restaurant

1599 Sanchez St. at 29th St.

San Francisco

RSVP: Barbara Spencer

¶

June 20 at 1:30 p.m. AAUW SF Friday Afternoon Book Group

Place: Paula Campbell's home

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

Coordinator: Michelle Mammini

¶

June 23 at 7:00 p.m. International Book Group

Book/Author: "The Dictionary of Lost Words" by Pip Williams

Hostess: Mary Graves

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June 26 ZOOM at 7:30 pm

Book/Author: Hanging the Devil by Tim Maleeny

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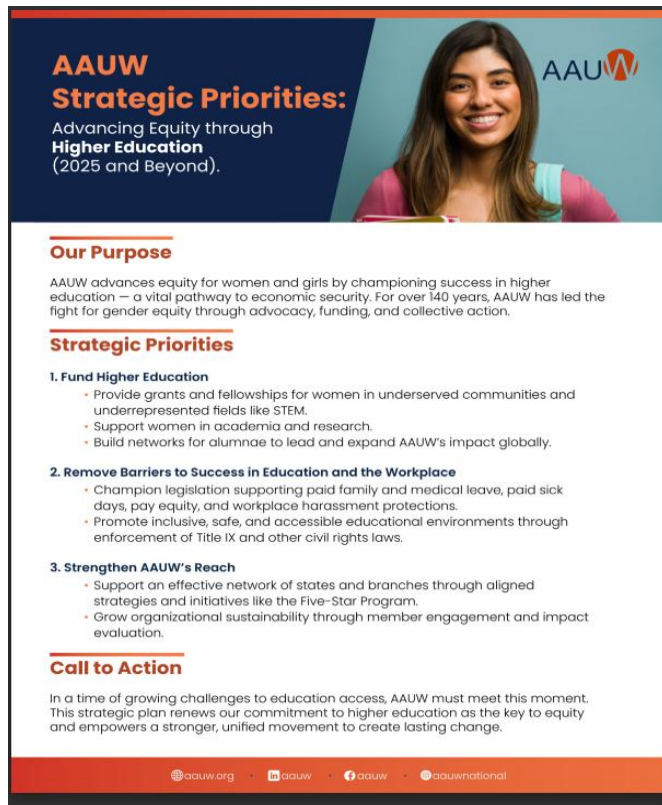
Co-Presidents' Message

We are beginning to wind down from a very busy end-of-the-year period, but there is still one more branch event: San Francisco Branch Annual Lunch Meeting. We are combining our annual business meeting with lunch on Saturday, June 14 at noon. We need to elect Rebecca Miller to the post of Membership VP, which she has already been filling on an interim basis. Mary Renner has stepped down from Membership VP but remains active in branch affairs.

The lunch will be at Alice's Chinese Restaurant 1599 Sanchez St (at 29th St.), in Noe Valley. Please RSVP to me if you can attend. Advance payments are not needed; we will order and pay individually with cash. Please bring cash!

State and National AAUW News

AAUW National has announced a new statement of strategic priorities that somewhat narrows the focus to higher education issues. Reduced revenue has necessitated this move. We will



continue to be a leading funder of higher education grants through established endowments. A copy of the Strategic Priorities is contained in later pages. Dues National dues have been raised by \$2 to a total of \$74; state dues will increase by \$10 to a total of \$30 on July 1. If you renew your membership before July, you may avoid the state dues increase. Thus, renewals before July 1 will cost \$95. Our branch dues remain at \$1.00. You may renew online at aauw.org or by using the link on our website at aauwsf.org You may also write a check to AAUW-SF for \$95 and mail it to P.O. Box 31405, San Francisco, CA 94131. Silver Jubilee Scholarships, through a long-standing endowment, our branch awards

scholarships to deserving women who are finishing their last two years of undergraduate or graduate education and who live or attend school within 100 miles of San Francisco. We had an abundance of well-qualified applicants this year and decided to award seven scholarships of \$3,000 each. See inside this issue for a listing of the awardees. They received their awards at a Silver Jubilee brunch held on May 31 at Mary Renner's home. Tech Trek and TTAG Our branch is sending 16 girls to Tech Trek this summer. Ten will go to camp at UC Santa Cruz, and six to SFSU Fresno. Our annual Tech Trek Send-Off event was just held for the girls and their families at the Sports Basement Community Room. They learned more about AAUW, TTAG, and what to expect at camp. It was a well-attended and successful event. Two of the recipients of this year's TTAG college scholarships were able to attend the Send-Off event and receive their awards. TTAG awarded four Scholarships of \$4,000 each this year. All told, our branch is awarding \$37,000 in scholarships this year.

Summer Plans

There will be no board meeting in June, but the book groups and lunch bunch will continue throughout the summer. The AAUW-SF Board will meet on Saturday, August 9, at 10 am to plan the 2025-2026 program. If you would like to attend, please contact me or Roli Wendorf. Enjoy your summer!

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

TRUE TO HER BELIEFS

The Clare Boothe Luce Program, significant source of funding for female representation such as grants to institutions that have in those and similar scientific stipulation that at least 50% of (Clare had converted to approximately 210 colleges and have received this generous



administered by the Henry Luce Foundation, is a women students in STEM fields, particularly in areas with low chemistry, math, and computer science. The program awards shown a strong commitment to supporting women students fields. Since the program began in 1989, there has been a the recipients must go to Catholic colleges and universities. Catholicism later in life.) The CBL Program is applicable to universities. 3,348 women students from all over the world award. So, just who was Clare Boothe Luce?

During her long lifetime of 84 years, besides being an elect Congressional representative from Connecticut, and diplomat during Republican presidencies, Clare Boothe Luce was also an acclaimed playwright and journalist. She wrote for such magazines as *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*. It helped her career that her second husband was Henry Luce, a newspaper magnate who had founded literally a stable of magazines including *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune*, and *Sports Illustrated*. Her second published play, with a groundbreaking all female cast, *The Women* (1936) offered decidedly feminist views that critics accepted better than the depression era audiences. Its themes are still relevant today.

For a few years, Clare devoted herself to public service as a Congresswoman from Connecticut, following in the footsteps

www.womenshistory.org

www.history.house.gov

www.cwhf.org

www.panthernow.com

of her well-known stepfather. In 1944, she was chosen to give the keynote address at the Republican convention. She was very supportive alongside other Congresswomen urging the appointment of women to federal policy making positions. Under another Republican president (Eisenhower), she served abroad as a diplomat in Italy. Clare Boothe Luce had genuine abilities although many critics suspected that the widespread recognition she received was enhanced because of her family connections. As she grew older, her conservative leanings began to shift farther right. Her increasingly rabid anti-Communism stance included opposition to a range of progressive ideas that alienated many in the Senate and in women's rights organizations. The '70 saw her continuing her play writing and serving on the editorial board of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Luce returned to Washington with the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980. He appointed her to his Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and further honored her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1983. Clare was also the recipient of several honorary degrees and journalism awards. She was indeed a woman with many talents and not afraid to speak her mind. The Clare Booth Luce scholarship program reflects her desire to provide opportunities for young women to follow their dreams. **Pat Camarena**

SILVER JUBILEE SCHOLARSHIPS

This year we had an abundance of applications for the Silver Jubilee Scholarships awarded by our branch every year to women entering their final two years of graduate or undergraduate programs in the next academic year. Because we had so many applications the Silver Jubilee Committee decided toward seven scholarships of \$3,000 each. It was difficult to narrow the field even this much. The Silver Jubilee Fund, which was established in 1916, has continued to grow and enables us to make these awards. Scholarships are being awarded to the following women: Aislinn McKelvey, a San Rafael resident, will be attending Northern Illinois University to obtain a M.S. in Chemistry. Aislinn was a Tech Trekker in 2015 and served as a dorm mom in 2024. Amal Abdelhalim is a second-year law student at UC Berkeley School of Law and will receive her J.D. degree in May 2026. She hopes to pursue immigration law. Corina Brito will be attending San Francisco State University in the Fall after completing two years at Madera Community College. She will major in speech, language and hearing sciences and hopes to become a speech-language pathologist. She will graduate in May 2027. Isabella Blanco is a second-year student at UC Law San Francisco and will receive her J.D.

degree in May 2026. She has volunteered with the LGBTQ+ Asylum Clinic in San Francisco and hopes to have a career in public service. Kathryn Lige is pursuing a Doctorate of Education at San Francisco State University, which she expects to obtain in May 2026. Her research focuses on the needs, values, and motivations of educational leaders serving predominantly marginalized student populations. Purnima Vadla is a graduate student at UC San Francisco School of Dentistry in the International Dentist Pathway. She will obtain her DDS degree in Spring 2026. Her long-term goal is to be in a practice with specialists in many fields. Samantha Norris will obtain a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in June 2026 from UC Santa Cruz. She has volunteered extensively in STEM-related programs, including founding a robotics club while in high school. The Silver Jubilee Committee members are Barbara Spencer, Mary Renner, Kelly Joseph, Rosaura Valle, and Rebecca Miller. We will present the checks to the recipients at a brunch from 10-12 on May 31, at Mary Renner's house. If you would like to be included in this event, please contact me by email.

Barbara Spencer, Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund Chair

Please send any written contributions to this newsletter to the attention of avanti.editor2024@gmail.com by no later than the 24th of the month

If anyone is still **not** receiving the Avanti email or other communications please email rebeccamiller.aauw@gmail.com, or call / text 415.786.6255. Thanks again for your patience with the membership transition.

Tech Trek Send-Off Party A Success



We celebrated with our 16 selected Tech Trek campers and their families on Saturday, May 17 at the Sports Basement on Bryant Street. The campers will be going either to Camp Fresno in June or Camp Carson at Santa Cruz in July. The Tech Trek Committee has been working on selecting the campers since January. Kudos to them (Allison Petersen, Anne Leung, Maggy

Kepler, Barbara Spencer, Rosaura Valle, Roli Wendorf) for their hard work. The TTAG members

under Rosaura's guidance have worked hard in organizing and helping with the event. Thank you to all.

TTAG scholarships of \$4,000 were awarded by Rosaura Valle. Caitlin Lien and Sonia Lee were present to receive theirs in person.

Roli Wendorf

TECH TREK ALUMNAE CHAT:

Demystifying the High School to College Transition

Our 6th Annual Women in STEM event on Sunday April 27 at the Portola Library from 1-3 PM, in person was a huge success!



3 speakers: from left to right: Julie, Mira and Kimia

The TTAG Annual Women in STEM panel events are designed with the Tech Trek Alumnae Group in mind to showcase role models and career paths in STEM. Each with its own underlying theme, past Women in STEM events have focused on women in STEM from the AAUW-San Francisco branch (April 2024), Tech Trek Alumnae in college (April 2023), young professional women in the STEM workforce (October 2020), or centered on topics such as the exploration of STEM disciplines (January 2020) and the relationship between STEM and Society (April 2022).

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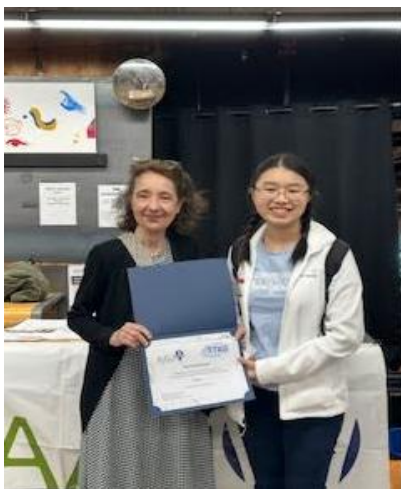
This year, we were happy to gather in person at a new Group picture: the 3 guest speakers with our TTAG group.

partner's site, the Portola Library, thanks to Sidney Huang, a 2022 Tech Trek camper who is also a member of our SF-TTAG Student Board and who has been volunteering at her neighborhood library. Invited speakers included our very own Tech Trek Alumnae Kimia Sattary (who just graduated from UC Berkeley with a BS in Mechanical Engineering) and Julie Ramirez (1st year student at SFSU in computer engineering). Mira Verma, a 2024 Tech Trek camper's sister who would have loved to attend Tech Trek, joined as well as a UC Santa Cruz undergraduate majoring in robotic engineering.

The TTAG Student Board worked hard in the event planning and facilitated the panel, leading the chat to gain insights on the high school to college transition, including AP class selection and study guidance, extracurricular choices, how to survive the college application process and adapt to college campus life, etc.

TTAG SCHOLARSHIPS 2025

Sonia distinguished herself by co-leading the first Student Board last year. She was Roli Wendorf's intern



in the Summer 2022, assisting her with establishing the new branch website. Sonia has been mentoring junior Tech Trek Alumnae and Tech Trek campers all along

As summarized by TTAG Newsletter Coordinator,



Elizabeth O'Shea, the main takeaway from this panel, for the high school TTAGers, "was that college is and should be exciting. Not everyone gets into their first choice and the application process can be stressful but after attending the event it's evident that things will work out. As Julie said, rejection is redirection!"

Rosaura Valle, TTAG Chair

and volunteered as Tech Trek Camp Counselor at Sonoma State. She has also been an active member with the AAUW-California Tech Trek Alumnae Community (TTAC) replicating at state level what she had learned at branch level with the San Francisco TTAG. This year she was TTAC Communication Director overseeing the implementation of the California-wide TTAG slack channel. Robotics has been Sonia's favorite extracurricular activity throughout high school, and it is with a laser-focused STEM mindset, that she has grown from Tech Trek camper to rising sophomore at UC Davis with a major in Electrical Engineering and Economics.

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With the Tech Trek and TTAG programs, our goal is to develop a pipeline of students from camp to college: from sparking interest into a variety of STEM fields at camp, to being part of a community of like-minded students with TTAG, Lexian, Danielle, Sonia and Caitlin are demonstrating just that. I am proud of all of them,

and cannot wait to hear about their progress on campus! Congratulations to all!

Rosaura Valle, TTAG Chair

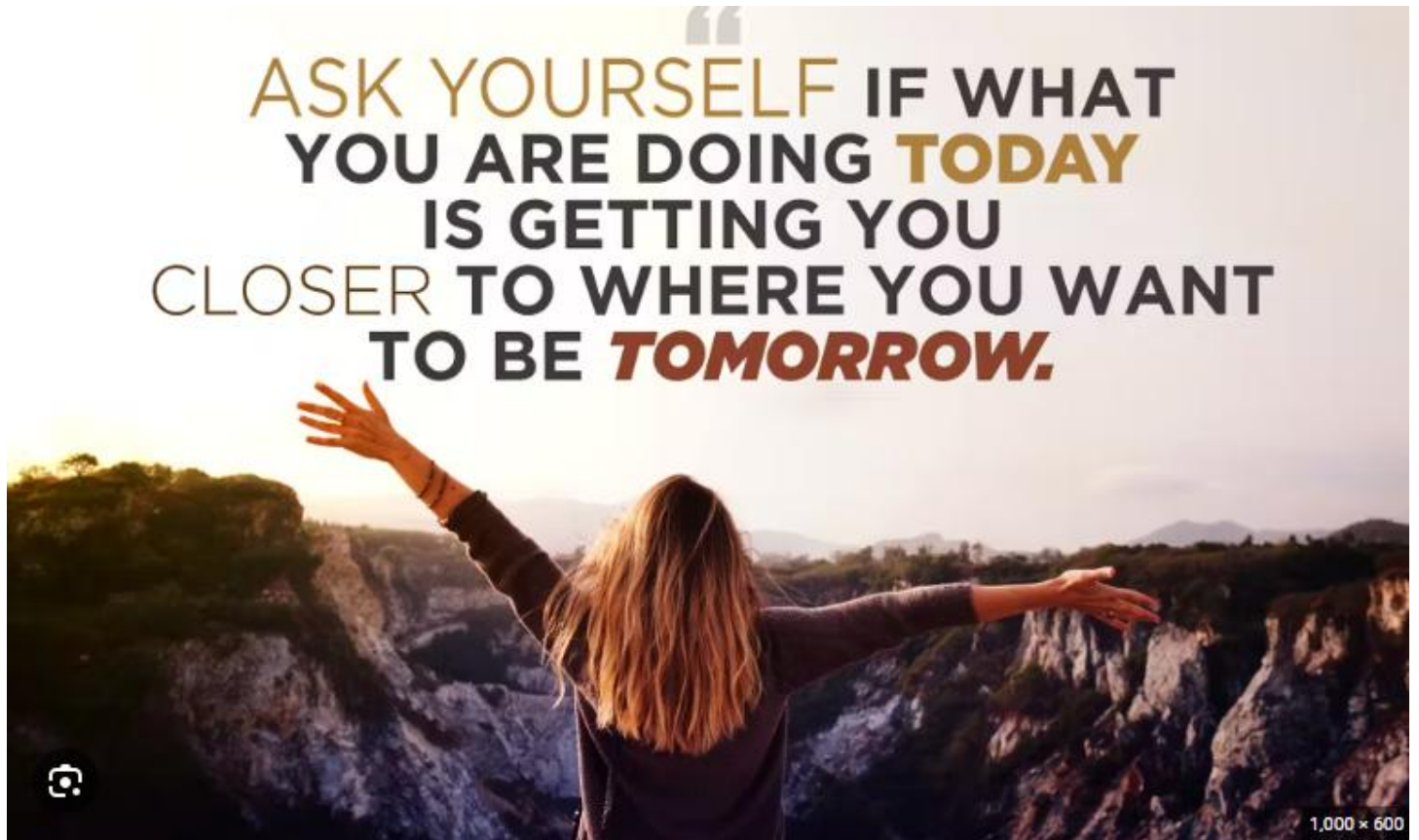
JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Anni Puckett	June 10
Mary Graves	June 10
Lucretia Axtell	June 12
Mary Suter	June 12
Annette Mixon	June 23
Allison Petersen	June 23
Sandra Tye	June 28



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Avanti Editor
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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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Kelly Joseph

Treasurer's Assistants

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Roli Wendorf**Secretary**

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Rosaura Valle

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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.

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