



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

July 2025

Co-Presidents' Message

Month at a Glance

July 2, 7:30 p.m. TTAG Committee Meeting -- via ZOOM
Contact: Rosaura Valle
¶
☐

July 18, 1:30 p.m. AAUWSF Friday Afternoon Book Group
Mary Suter's home
Coordinator: Michelle Mammini
¶

July 21, 7 p.m. AAUW International Book Group
Book: any book about Catherine de Medici such as
The Serpent Queen by Leonie Frieda
Hostess: Sherry Bridyham



July 1 marks the beginning of a new AAUW year. Our official year goes from July 1 to June 30. We have accomplished a lot in the past year:

- Three book groups and one lunch group met regularly
- Membership increased from 65 to 70. We received two stars from National for Communications and Programs
- TTAG led by Rosaura Valle grew, with many online and in-person programs, including visits to the Exploratorium and Academy of Science. Four TTAG scholarships of \$4,000 each were awarded. TTAG students supported Tech Trek interviews and events.
- The Tech Trek Committee preparations to recruit campers began in October and continued throughout the year. Our branch is sending 16 girls to camp this summer. It's a lengthy process online and in person to reach this result. We were helped by branch members and a number of TTAG volunteers.

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

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- Sheila Bost hosted an election issues meeting in October that was well-attended and informative. Supervisor Joel Engardio summarized the pros and cons of ballot measures.
- This was the second year of the Professional Women's Networking group. While still evolving, the group held three virtual programs during the year.
- Our Silver Jubilee Scholarship Committee received many applications and awarded 7 scholarships of \$3,000 each.
- Our branch awarded a total of \$37,000 in scholarships this year. We also paid for 16 girls to attend Tech Trek and donated \$4,000 to national AAUW.

The annual branch meeting and lunch at Alice's was enjoyable. We elected Rebecca Miller to be the Membership VP. We thanked Mary Renner for serving in that capacity for the last several years. Barbara went over branch accomplishments and we discussed national's new strategic plan. The scholarship brunch was held at the home of Mary Renner to award Silver Jubilee scholarships to the 7 winners. Several were accompanied by family members.

We look forward to the coming year. It will be a special one as the branch celebrates its 140 th birthday! Did you know that San Francisco is the second oldest AAUW branch in the country? We will be planning events and activities to celebrate next year on Saturday, August 9 at 10:00 AM. If you are interested in participating, please let us know. Do renew your membership if you haven't done so already, and have an enjoyable summer!

Roli Wendorf, Co-President

MEMBER NEWS

Mary Suter is being recognized by our branch with a named gift to the AAUW Fund in recognition of her many years of service. Mary has been a branch member for over 50 years and has held just about every office in branch leadership. Most recently, she served as chair of the Silver Jubilee Scholarship Fund for over 10 years.

Connie Armitage has been awarded the status of Honorary Life Member in recognition of her 50 years of AAUW membership.

Congratulations to both Mary and Connie.

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MAKING HISTORY WHILE MAKING LAW



Constance Baker Motley's face has been on every US Postal Service stamp that I have used this past month. Once I got all my necessary mailing done, I realized that I knew little of the woman whose face looked back at me or why her image appeared on the stamps. I decided to find out more about her and to close a considerable gap in my knowledge of women's history.

As a child, Constance Motley (nee Baker) was a voracious reader. She was the ninth of twelve children of Caribbean immigrants who had settled in New Haven, Connecticut. Her mother, Rachel, a domestic worker, also served as a community activist. At fifteen Constance was reading literature by well-known black authors. Her attention became focused on civil rights issues. She became acutely aware of the need for more black lawyers. She began to visualize a future legal career for herself. She became active in her high school in local community councils. Fortunately, she impressed a local businessman and philanthropist who heard her address a community meeting. He offered to fund her higher education aspirations. Constance was on her way! She received her Bachelor of Law from Columbia Law School in 1946. She would with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational as a staff attorney for over twenty years.

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While still in law school she began to clerk for Thurgood Marshall, aiding him in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, one of many significant civil rights cases receiving national attention. In 1950 she wrote the original complaint in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*. When James Meredith was struggling to enter the University of Mississippi, Constance was there arguing his case.

Constance became an elected member of the New York State Senate, the first Caribbean-American woman to hold that position. She would later serve as Manhattan Borough President. In 1966, President Johnson nominated



Constance to fill a seat on the US District Court of Southern New York. Despite some opposition from a southern senator, who held up her confirmation for seven months, she was finally confirmed by the US senate in 1966 becoming the first African-American female federal judge (and later, Chief Judge). In this position she was pivotal in deciding many cases involving Vietnam war protestors, supporting tenant's rights, and setting gender policies (i.e: women in sports). She was always very supportive of other women of color who were aspiring to legal careers. Her steadfast goal to

advocate for all people in need will remain an inspiration to us all.

Many honors and awards came her way. To name just a few, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Citizens Medal. In 2022, *Civil Rights Queen*, an "immersive" biography was published. In 2024 the USPS

issued a commemorative postage stamp to honor Constance Baker Motley. The first day of issue ceremony was held at the recreation center named for her in New York City.

Pat Camarena -

www.uscourts.gov | www.womenofthehall.org | www.civicsupremecourthistory.org

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JULY BIRTHDAYS

Sheila Bost

July 14

Elaine Butler

July 19



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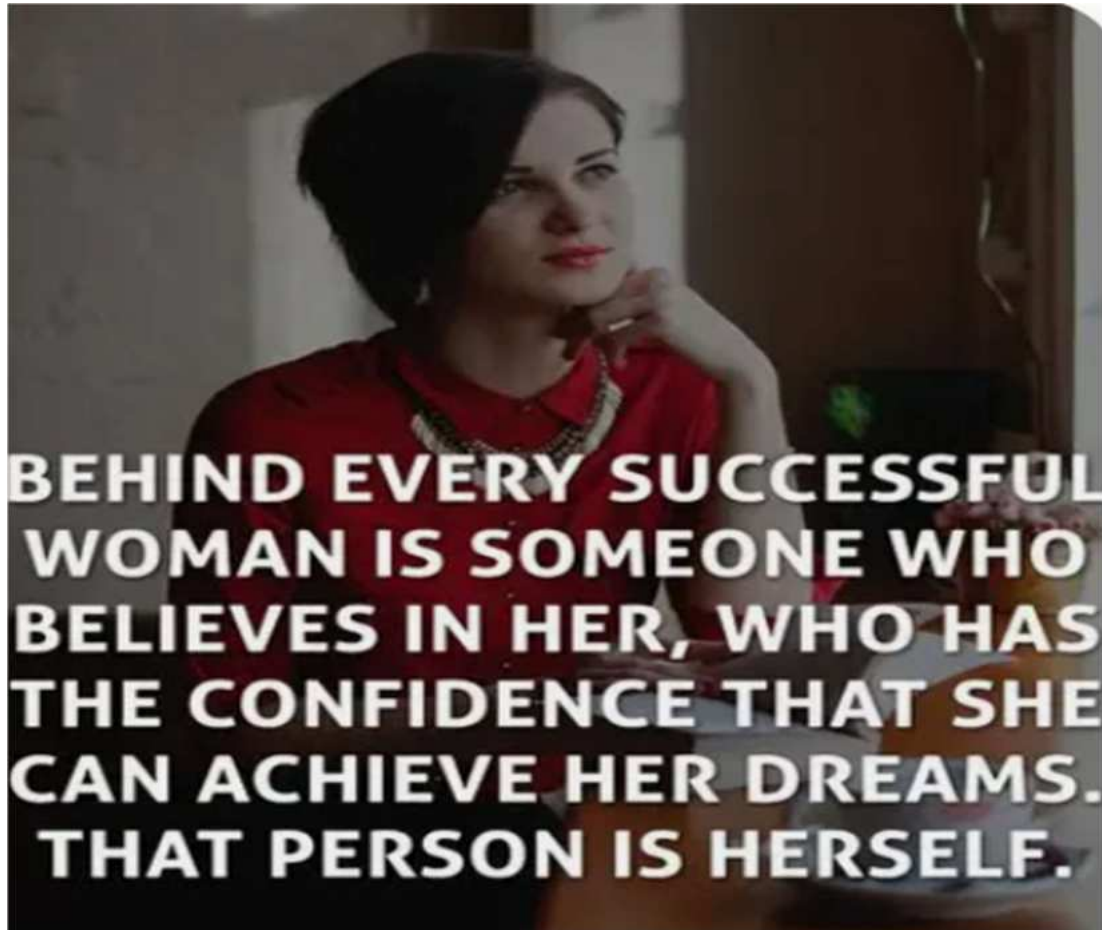
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Address Correction Requested

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-](https://sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net)



ca.aauw.net

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**AAUW-SF Board****Contact Us:**

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[Roli Wendorf](#)

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Barbara Spencer

Voter Information

Sheila Bost

Teck Trek Coordinators

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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