



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

August 2025

## Month at a Glance

August 6, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting - via ZOOM

Contact Rosaura Valle

August 9, 10 am, San Francisco Branch Annual Planning Meeting

Roli Wendorf's home. Contact Roli if you want to attend.

August 18, 7 pm AAUW International Book Group

Six Days in Bombay by Alka Joshi

August 23, 2-4 pm, Welcome Back Event

At Bryant St. Sports Basement, 1590 Bryant St., S.F. 94103

Contact Barbara Spencer for information

August 28 ZOOM @ 7:30 pm Book/Author: Where They Lie by Claire Coughlan

Discussion Leader: Pat Camarena

Reminder new members are encouraged to join at any time. Email Elaine Butler for the link. Heads up we are meeting in person for our book choice meeting on September 25 for at mystery potluck and book choices for the 2025-2026 year. We will meet at Noon at Susan Peliks. Present your book nominations to Roli at [WendorfR@aol.com](mailto:WendorfR@aol.com)

## Co-Presidents' Message

Here we are again with summer in San Francisco. According to the S.F. Chronicle, this is the coldest summer season since 1965. I hope everyone is finding a way to enjoy our shivery summer. Some of our activities are on hiatus, but the book groups keep reading and meeting.

### Dues Increase

As of July 1, our branch dues are \$105 for the fiscal year 2025-2026 due to an increase of \$10 in state dues. If you have trouble logging on to the national website to pay your dues, you may send a check payable to AAUW-SF to P.O. Box 31405, SF 94131.

### Celebrations

This year is our branch's 140th anniversary, and we want to celebrate. Please save the date of December 6 for a celebratory lunch and reminiscence of our branch's storied history.

The annual Tech Trek Welcome Back event will be held on Saturday, August 23, from 2-4 pm, at the Bryant St. Sports Basement community room. We will host this summer's Tech Trekkers and their families. It's always heartwarming to hear about their experiences. All branch members and guests are welcome.

### Planning Meeting

The board will meet on Saturday, August 9, at Roli Wendorf's home to discuss plans for branch activities and to formulate a budget for the year. If you would like to attend, please contact me or Roli. We welcome outside voices.

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

Please send any written contributions to this newsletter to the attention of [avanti.editor2024@gmail.com](mailto:avanti.editor2024@gmail.com) by no later than the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month

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

**JOIN US FOR OUR**  
**WELCOME BACK PARTY**

**FOR RETURNING TECHTREKKERS, THEIR FAMILIES, TTAGERS, & AAUW BRANCH MEMBERS!**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 23RD**

**SPORTS BASEMENT**  
**1590 BRYANT ST, SAN FRANCISCO**  
*(Parking entrance on Florida St)*

**THE EVENT STARTS PROMPTLY AT 2 PM**

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

**TTAG**  
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## Maggie Goes to Washington



The founder of the Gray Panthers, Maggie Kuhn spent a lifetime in social work for the Young Women's Christian Association and other organizations devoted to social needs, especially those of women.

Both this and her editorship of *Social Progress* magazine equipped her well for the role she developed as a leader in the movement to improve the status of older people. She began that career after



mandatory retirement from the United Presbyterian Church, which had employed her until age seventy. The following year, she spoke at the White House Conference on Aging, where the term "Gray Panthers" was applied to senior activists whose politics resembled that of the era's African Americans who called themselves the Black Panthers. The first objective of the Gray Panthers

was passage of legislation to improve conditions in nursing homes.

Kuhn's books, *Get Out There and do Something About Injustice* (1972) and *Maggie Kuhn on Aging* (1977) became rallying cries for senior citizen activism. Like the pioneering anthropologist Ruth Benedict's invention of the word "racism", Kuhn coined "ageism" to denote discrimination based on age. Still active into her eighties, she published her autobiography called *No Stone Unturned*.

Maggie would be happy to know that the Gray Panther organization is still going strong. A grassroots organization, they have challenged other ageist laws and stereotypes and engaged in anti-war activism, Medicare and Social Security preservation, intergenerational housing. LGBT rights advocacy, the fair treatment of people in nursing homes. and the promotion of single payer health care.

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

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

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## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Maggie Kepler | August 5  |
| Peg Jackson   | August 10 |
| Elizabeth Ray | August 15 |
| Linda Miller  | August 21 |
| Persis Ainey  | August 23 |
| Nancy Shapiro | August 25 |



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Avanti Editor  
AAUW  
San Francisco Branch  
P.O. Box 31405  
San Francisco, CA 94131-0405  
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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**AAUW-SF Board****Contact Us:**[aauwsfbranch@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsfbranch@gmail.com)**Co-Presidents**

Barbara Spencer

[Roli Wendorf](#)**Treasurer**

Kelly Joseph

**Treasurer's Assistants**

Barbara Spencer

[Roli Wendorf](#)**Secretary**

Rosaura Valle

**Membership Vice Presidents**

Mary Renner

Rebecca Miller

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Cyndi Bireley

**Silver Jubilee Fund Chair**

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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