



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

September 2025

Month at a Glance

September 3rd, 7:30 p.m. TTAG Committee Meeting -- via ZOOM

Contact Rosaura

September 8, 7 p.m. Zoom Board Meeting

September 15, 7 p.m. International Book Group
The Lion Women of Iran by Marjan Kamali
Contact Sheila Bost

September 17, noon Lunch Bunch

Lime Tree Restaurant, 836 Clement St.
RSVP Mary Suter

September 19, 1:30 p.m. AAUW SF Friday Afternoon Book Group

September is the month when we choose our books for our 2025-2026 reading list. Please bring one or two book suggestions. Thank you

September 25, noon Mystery/Adventure Potluck

Book Choice Meeting

Bring your favorite dish and don't tell anyone. It's a mystery.

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 house. Present your book nominations to Roli Wendorf

Co-President's Message

Summer is coming to an end and Labor Day is almost here. The branch leadership held its annual planning meeting on August 9 to plan out events and activities for the coming year.

Tech Trek Welcome Back Party August 23.

We are welcoming back our 16 Tech Trek campers and their families on August 23 to hear about their camp experiences. They will also be encouraged to join TTAG, our Tech Trek Alumnae Group for continued enrichment in the STEM fields throughout their middle and high school years. The event is to be held at the Sports Basement on Bryant Street at 2:00 PM.

Upcoming Events - 140th Anniversary Luncheon:

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 6 at noon! We will celebrate our branch's 140th birthday at the Mission Rock Resort. We have reserved Crane Cove, a private space for 30 for the big event. More details to follow in the coming months.

Book-Author Talk: Heads up to all book lovers and book club members!

We are arranging a talk by award winning author Yang Huang on October 18 at 2:00 PM. Yang Huang has written several novels - *My Good Son*, *My Old Faithful*, *Living Treasures*. In this talk, she will discuss her novel *My Good Son*, winner of the University of New Orleans Press Publishing Lab Prize. The New York Times notes Huang

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“ability to realistically render the generational push-pull of family life”. Huang will share her inspiration for writing the novel, and how she came to pursue writing while working full time as a computer engineer.

Membership Renewal Reminder A reminder to renew your AAUW membership

If you haven't done so already you can do so by logging in at my.aauw.org or sending us a check made out to AAUW San Francisco. Note that membership cost is \$105 now.

Roli Wendorf, Co-President

Announcement from National AAUW

AAUW Fall Member Gathering
Thursday, September 18th 5pm - 6pm ET

[Please join us for AAUW's Fall Member Gathering!](#) At this special event, we will:

- Recognize outstanding supporters and branches,
- Update you on our Strategic Plan's 3 key priorities,
- Share the results of AAUW's FY25 Branch Survey, and
- Provide you with the information you need to answer our 5 Calls to Action!

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our achievements and learn about our latest initiatives!

[Register here.](#)

The Challenges to Voting Rights Then and Now

Join the producer of SUFFS, the Tony Award-winning musical about the women who fought to win the vote, at an upcoming webinar on September 18. Rachel Sussman, lead producer, will talk about how the women's suffrage movement inspired SUFFS. **She will be joined by Dianna Wynn, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S.** Senator Alex Padilla has also been invited to participate.

The webinar, which will be held from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., will focus on the challenges to voting rights, then and now. Panelists will describe the history and obstacles the suffragists faced in passing the 19th Amendment, the founding of the League of Women Voters, and the League's commitment to ensure the right to vote.

Sussman will explain the driving force and commitment of the SUFFS production to bring to life on stage the passionate American women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote. They will also explain the SAVE Act, what it is and how its passage would threaten the right to vote for many Americans, especially women. Alison Peters, Contra Costa County librarian, will moderate the discussion.

Register for the webinar [here](#):

Information on how to access the Zoom webinar will be sent to your email address 24 hours before the program. Audience questions will be collected and answered through the Zoom chat.

FYI SUFFS will be playing from October 2 to November 9 at the Orpheum Theater, [1192 Market Street, San Francisco](#).

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Sponsors of the webinar include the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, the League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa County, the Contra Costa County Library and Contra Costa TV.

The Library will provide simultaneous Spanish translation for this event. The program will be recorded and posted on the following sites after the meeting:

[Contra Costa County Library YouTube channel](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LeagueofWomenVotersofDiabloValley>.

Contact programs@lwvdv.org for more information

Tech Trek Camps 2025



16 middle school girls attended Tech Trek STEM camps this summer from our branch – 6 at CSU Fresno and 10 at UC Santa Cruz.

Here is a picture of the Fresno contingent and a thank you note from one of the attendees from Willie Brown Middle School.

Dear, San Francisco,
Thank you for bringing me to Tech Trek, I have been having so much fun even with the hot weather, I have made so many friends that have been supporting me, especially ~~my~~ my core class I have been loving it even though classes are pretty long. I have been building structures with pasta, toothpicks, gum-drops, and marshmallow. I also enjoyed this game we have been playing. You figure things out like puzzles to keep moving, and I love the food it's all so good that it ~~always~~ always makes me want to look forward to eating in the dining halls
sincerely, Kaitlin Naomi
Nava

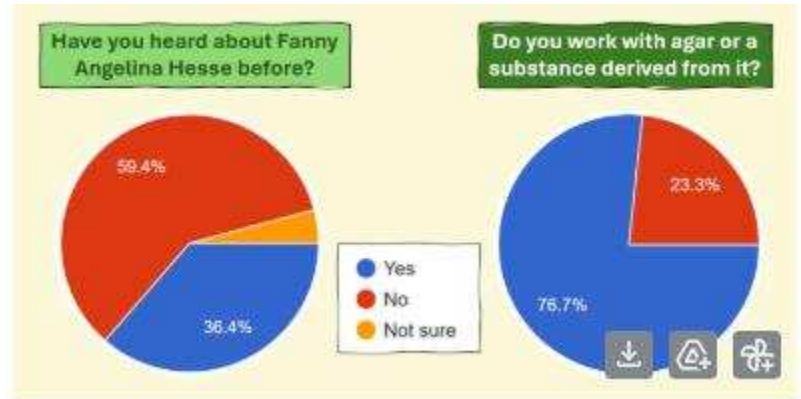
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Fanny The Forgotten



Angelina Fanny Hesse, was a scientist you may never have heard of, but whose work with her husband, Walther, in the fields of microbiology and bacteriology continues to better our lives. This is her story.



"Lina" as her family called her, grew up in New York and New Jersey in a large but well off family of Dutch immigrants. She, like her sisters, were taught to cook and keep house. At fifteen she was sent to a boarding school in Switzerland to learn home economics and French. She also showed a great deal of artistic talent as an illustrator.

While traveling in Europe, she met and married scientist Walther Hesse. Besides raising three sons, Fanny worked as an unpaid assistant to Walther in the laboratory of the German physician and micro-biologist Robert Koch. She also became a scientific illustrator drawing highly accurate watercolor images of colonies of fungi and bacteria that were included anonymously in Walther's published work.

One day in 1881, while eating lunch, Walther asked Fanny about the jellies and puddings that she made and how they managed to stay gelled even in warm weather. In the laboratory the scientists were having trouble finding a good medium in which to grow air-born bacteria. When she was younger, an Indonesian raised Dutch neighbor had taught Fanny a technique using red algae (called agar) when she made jellies and other similar desserts. Fanny suggested that Walther try that method in his scientific work as an alternative to gelatin. Walther and Koch used this method with great success. Eventually the agar method was used by Julius Richard Petri in creating the Petri dish, a model of culture plates used in modern laboratory work. No credit ever went to Fanny. Apparently at the time Koch did not realize the importance that agar would have in later scientific research. Her contributions never resulted in any financial gain for the Hesse family.

Her family home in Dresden was destroyed during the WWII bombing so much (but not all) of her mementos were lost. Fanny's legacy is that, to this day, her work continues to enable scientists to gain life - saving medical information to enhance our lives.

www.sciencehistory.org
www.frontiersin.org
www.transmissible.eu

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Spencer	9/11
Mary Worth	9/18
Karen Cancino	9/18
Pat Metzgar	9/21
Janice Gonsalves	9/24
Jane Hansen	9/30



Avanti Editor
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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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Kelly Joseph

Treasurer's Assistants

Barbara Spencer

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

Rosaura Valle

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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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**One of the best things
that ever happened to
me is that I'm a
woman.**

MARILYN MONROE



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