



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

October 2025

Month at a Glance

October 1, 7:30 pm

TTAG Committee meeting via Zoom

Contact: Rosaura Valle rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.comOctober 13, 7pm -- Zoom Board MeetingContact: barbaracspencer@gmail.comOctober 15, Noon, --Lunch Bunch

Galinette Bistro, 3554-3560 Taraval St (at 46th Ave.)

RSVP Mary Suter at marsuter@yahoo.comOctober 17 -- 3rd Friday Book Club

The Butterfly's Daughter By Mary Alice Munroe

Hostess: Mary Suter

October 18, 2pm --Book/Author Talk

Barbara Spencer's house, 736 3rd Ave., SF, RSVP Barbara

October 20, 7 pm, AAUW International Book Group

Book: The Color of Water by James McBride

Host: Mary Graves, rsvp: 415-515-5294

or marywgravessf@gmail.com

2901 Broderick Street

Co-President's Message

Election News

You will be seeing lots of ads about Proposition 50 that will be on the California ballot on November 4. It would authorize temporary changes to California congressional district maps in response to Texas' Partisan Redistricting. Normally, congressional redistricting is done every 10 years in response to the new census data. Congressional redistricting has been very partisan and has often resulted in gerrymandered districts to protect the incumbent representative. In 2010, California voters established an independent commission to draw the congressional district maps.

If Proposition 50 passes there would be one-time redrawing of congressional districts by the California Legislature to counter the Texas measure. Upon the next census count in 2030, California congressional maps would again be drawn by the independent commission. AAUW is not taking a pro or con position on this measure, but it is important to know what it does and does not do. Please be sure to vote to vote. FYI, I will be voting YES.

Branch History

We will be celebrating the San Francisco Branch's 140th anniversary on December 6, 12 noon, at Mission Rock Resort. Kathleen Cha, former branch president and California state president, will review our storied history with a slide presentation. We are also collecting memorabilia to display at the luncheon. More details will follow.

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.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE — December 6.

AAUW Dues

For those of you who still need to renew your membership please be aware that the cost is now \$105 because of increases to national. If anyone finds this onerous, please contact member of the board on financial assistance. aauwsf.org has a link to website dues section. national, state and local website. If you have navigating the website, a check payable to mail it to the branch PO Box 31405, San 94131.



AAUW-SF Celebrates 140th Anniversary

SAVE THE DATE

Founded in 1886, we are the oldest branch in California and second oldest in the country

December 6, 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Mission Rock Resort

Lunch and Celebration of Branch History

Cost: \$50

Author Talk

Yang Huang, a China born engineer who graduated from UC Berkeley and holds numerous other degrees, has written several books. She will discuss her novel, *My Good Son*, on October 18, 2:00 pm at my house. All members are invited, and I hope all book groups will spread the word. It's been a while since we have had such an in-person meeting. I hope to see lots of members on October 18.

Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Welcome new members!

Amy Lam
Rusty Lerner
Elizabeth Noble
Lesley Osborne
Pam Schultz

October bday list

Carol Robinson	1
Cathy Corcoran	3
Mary Jane Mikuriya	8
Harriet Sollod	10
Michelle Mammini	13
Susan Pollack	16
Patricia Spencer	27
Leslie Yuan	27



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Talk by Author Yang Huang



Create a More Tolerant and Hopeful World through Stories

When: Saturday, October 18, 2:00 PM

Where: Barbara's home (736 3rd Ave)

All are invited. Guests welcome.

Author Yang Huang will discuss her novel MY GOOD SON, winner of the University of New Orleans Press Publishing Lab Prize. The San Francisco Chronicle wrote that MY GOOD SON is about parental love...and the radical act of writing about ordinary life and in their review The New York Times notes Huang's 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.

Author Biography

Yang Huang grew up in Yangzhou, China and came to the U.S. to study computer science. While working as an engineer, she studied literature and pursued writing. She holds a BS in Computer Science and MFA in Creative Writing. Her novel, "My Good Son" won the University of New Orleans Press Publishing Lab Prize. Her linked story collection, "My Old Faithful", won the Juniper Prize for fiction, and her debut novel, "Living Treasures", won the Nautilus Book Award silver medal in fiction. Her essays, stories, and screenplay have appeared in Poets & Writers, Literary Hub, The Millions, Taste, The Margins, Asian Pacific American Journal, Stories for Film, and elsewhere.

Yang lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and works for the University of California, Berkeley. Besides her day job and family life, she writes fiction and creates a more tolerant and hopeful world in stories. She says, "In writing I can let down my walls, suspend my moral judgment, and pour my deepest compassion into the written words."

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Did you know - Agnes de Mille?

Agnes became the first noted woman in the de Mille family when she developed into Broadway's leading choreographer during the late '30s, 1940s, and 1950s. During her association with the American Ballet Theater in New York, in the late 1930s, one of her first pieces featured sixteen black ballerinas. Called *Black Ritual*



(*Obeah*), it was the first representation of black dancers in New York City ballet performances. Her first major acclaim was for her work on Aaron Copland's *Rodeo*, which she choreographed for a Russian ballet company in 1942. The following year she became widely known with the immensely popular *Oklahoma* on Broadway. Her most creative work may be the *Fall River Legend* (1948) which told the story of Lizzie Borden.

Agnes organized her own dance company in 1952 and toured throughout the country. She continued to design segments of hits on both stage and screen well into the 1960s. She was inducted into the American Theater Hall of

Fame in 1973. She was recognized with many awards such as the Kennedy Honors in 1980 and the National Medal of Arts in 1986. She also authored a number of books on dance, as well as autobiographical works.

In season two of *Wednesday*, a Netflix mystery/comedy series, sixteen year old Evie Templeton plays a skilled dancer very much modeled on Agnes's character. Character's name? Wednesday Addams. :)

www.agnesdemille.com

www.tburton.fandom.com

www.kennedy-center.org/media

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The Website is <https://wa-online.aauw.net/>

****Watch the Recording****

THE USES AND ABUSES OF TITLE IX: Webinar held on

September 17, 2025, 5:30 pm – 7:00pm PST

Find Complete Recording: [HERE](#)

Don't forget the PASSCODE!!!!!! %oL8aWK@

DOWNLOAD THE POWERPOINT WITH RESOURCES HERE–

[AAUW WA Online Title IX – It's History –Use and Abuse of Title IX 10v](#)

Support with a tax deductible donation the [Melissa Cooke Johnsen Family Planning and Reproductive Health Fund](#) at the University of California at Davis
- *Expanding Family Planning Through the Education of Medical Professionals.*

Gifts to the **Melissa Cooke Johnsen Family Planning and Reproductive Health Fund** will go to immediate use supporting reproductive education, abortion care education and training, family planning education, training, and research at the direction of the chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

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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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AAUW-SF Board**Contact Us:**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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“ EACH TIME A WOMAN
STANDS UP FOR HERSELF
SHE STANDS UP FOR
ALL WOMEN.

– MAYA ANGELOU

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