



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

December 2025

Month at a Glance

December 3, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting - via ZOOM
Contact Rosaura Valle

December 6, 12 to 3.

AAUW-SF 140th Anniversary Celebration
at Mission Rock Resort
RSVP Barbara Spencer

December 12, 2025 @ 1:30p

AAUW7 SF Friday Afternoon Book Group
The Underground Man by Ross McDonald
Coordinator: Michelle Mammini

December 18 at NOON

Vera Wong's Guide to snooping on a Dead Man by Jesse
Q Sutanto
RSVP: Susan P
Discussion Leader: Roli Wendorf

This is our annual Mystery/Adventure Potluck. Bring any
food item to share. The book is about a female Chinese
woman who cooks and sleuths.

International Book Group
No meeting in December

AAUW Board
No meeting in December

Co-President's Message

Our
postponed
author talk
by Yang
Huang took
place on
November 1,
and was
well-received
by members
from our
different



book groups. Yang is a very engaging young woman who told us about her background growing up in China and coming to the U.S. as a college student where there were only two Asian students. She had almost no money and spoke very little English. Technology appealed to her because of its dependence on math. While working as an engineer, Yang studied literature and pursued writing. She earned an MFA from the University of Arizona. Yang continues to work as a computer science engineer and write fiction. She has written 4 novels. A number of us bought one or more of her books. I enjoyed the one I bought, *Living Treasures*. For more information about Yang's books, see her website at www.yanghuang.com

140th Anniversary Luncheon, December 6


We are having a gala 140th anniversary celebration for our San Francisco AAUW branch, which is the 2nd oldest in the country. We will be lunching in a glass-enclosed private room at Mission Rock Resort with gorgeous water views. There will be a display of historical material as well as a talk by Kathleen Cha on our branch's storied history. Kathleen is a former president of our branch and of AAUW California. She has also served on the

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national AAUW Board. We are very lucky that she has taken an interest in our branch history.

As I write this message, there are still a few spots available. Please contact me immediately at barbaracspencer@gmail.com if you want to come.



**AAUW-SF Celebrates
140th Anniversary**

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

Luncheon and Branch History Talk
December 6, 12:00 - 3:00 PM
Mission Rock Resort
Cost: \$50

RSVP: Barbara Spencer
Mail check: AAUW-SF, 736 3rd Ave, SF or
Pay by Zelle: aauwsfbranch@gmail.com

SPACE LIMITED TO 30

Happy Holidays
Barbara Spencer, Co-President

Free Livestream Dec 8 with Robert Reich.

Watch along of 2025 documentary film **The Last Class** (his course "Wealth and Poverty" at UC, Berkeley).

Reich, former
reflections
Livestream is

Film trailer



Labor Secretary and professor for over 40 years, will share about public service before/after the film.

Dec 8 at 5:30pm. Registration is free

here <https://ineq.us/s/LRlcbf>.

here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qv6N3IRzY>

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Emma and the Angel of Central Park

There are many special areas in Central Park where people like to gather.

One of these special and often photographed areas is Bethesda Terrace. Over the years many movies and TV shows have filmed there. Where this terrace is located is where fresh and healthy water was originally successfully piped into the city. The fountain and the plaza were built over one hundred years ago to celebrate that fact. Most visitors have no idea of the name of the sculptor of the large winged angel in the center of the plaza. Who sculpted that huge marble winged angel? She has a story to tell. Her name was Emma Stebbins.

Emma Stebbins was a sculptor before many women entered that particular field of artistic endeavor. She was fortunate to grow up into a wealthy family who encouraged their two children to develop their artistic interests.



Emma studied at various art schools in New York and was elected to the National Academy of Design in 1843. Her brother, Henry became a successful business man, served in Congress, on

the Stock Exchange, and later became a Commissioner of Public Parks. It was he who, seeing his sister's growing interest in classical art, financed Emma's stay in Rome where she lived and learned to sculpt in marble under the tutelage of a woman artist Harriet Hosmer. During this period of time, Emma became part of a group

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of women openly living a lesbian lifestyle, much more accepted in Europe. An actress named Charlotte Chushman became her lifelong companion.

Emma's brother Henry was a great admirer of her skillful work as a sculptor. When he became Park Commissioner. When the Central Park fountain project began in the 1870s, he suggested that Emma would be



perfect for the job of crafting a large angel with outstretched wings that would stand on a pedestal in the center. The Angel of the Waters remains there today more than one hundred years later.

Emma was the first woman to receive a public art commission from New York City. This was long before women were accepted in the sculptural community at large.

She is being remembered this fall in an art exhibit currently at the Heckscher Museum of Art on Long Island. A great effort has been taken to round up a

large collection of her marble statues, much of them very rarely seen, being imagined as lost or in private hands. After Charlotte developed cancer, Emma became her caregiver. After her death, almost twenty years later, Emma never sculpted another statue.

Pat Camarena

www.observer.com

www.nytimes.com/2019/05/29

www.heckscher.org/exhibitions

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EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CALIFORNIA

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/leah-litman-speaks-to-aauw-on-roe-commemoration-webinar-thursday-jan-22-2026/>

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/higher-education-at-risk-and-how-you-can-help-protect-it/>



Leah Litman Speaks to AAUW on Roe Commemoration (Webinar: Thursday, Jan 22, 2026)

Leah Litman, a leader for women's issues and well-known podcaster, will be the keynote speaker at the AAUW Silicon

[Read More](#)

Register Now: AAUW Silicon Valley presents Higher Education at Risk – And How You Can Help Protect It

AAUW Silicon Valley invites you to join Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy, for an

[Read More](#)

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Avanti Editor
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San Francisco Branch
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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

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[Roli Wendorf](#)

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Kelly Joseph

Treasurer's Assistants

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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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