



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

January 2026

## Month at a Glance

January 7, 7:30 p.m.

TTAG Committee Meeting - via ZOOM  
Contact: Rosaura Valle

January 12, 7:00 PM (Zoom) Board Meeting

Contact: Roli Wendorf

January 15, 7:00 PM (Zoom) Tech Trek Committee Meeting

Contact: Roli Wendorf

January 16 @ 1:30pm AAUWSF Friday Afternoon Book Group

Anni Puckett's home  
The Empusium by Olga Tokarczuk  
Coordinator: Michelle Mammini

January 26 International Book Group

Hostess: Sherry Bridvham  
Book: My Friend by Hisham Matar

## Co-President's Message

A very happy new year to all our members! We hope you have all had an enjoyable Holiday Season with your families. We wish you joy, hope and good health in the new year.

### 140th Anniversary Luncheon

Our branch celebrated a landmark 140th anniversary on December 6. The event was very well attended by our members. We enjoyed celebrating with our friends. There was enough space to stand and mingle before it was time to serve ourselves a delicious buffet lunch and sit at our respective tables. We also had 4 distinguished guests – Dianne Owens, Board Chair of National AAUW; Chairmen Goehring, President of AAUW California; Cheryl Sorokin, past president of our branch and also past AAUW Board Chair; and Kathleen Cha, past branch and state President, and also our keynote speaker for the evening. Kathleen talked about the long and distinguished history of our branch, and its many accomplishments over 140 years. As the first AAUW branch to open in California, and the second in the country, it played a leading role in the state and the country. We left very inspired to carry on the good work we do.



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**Tech Trek**

This is the time of year when we start recruiting another cohort of 7 th grade girls to attend our Tech Trek STEM summer camps where they will spend a week at a college campus being involved in a variety of hands-on, fun STEM activities. We will start reaching out to all public middle schools in January to get nominations from the teachers. The nominees will need to complete applications including an essay and be interviewed. If you are interested in volunteering to interview the girls, please let me know or send email to [auwsfbranch@gmail.com](mailto:auwsfbranch@gmail.com) . The interviews will be held March 14-15. Also, those wishing to donate to Tech Trek, please make your check out to "AAUW CA SPF" and mail it to the branch address: P.O. Box 31405, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Roli Wendorf, Co-President

**MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION****"AAUW School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy virtual Symposium,**

**Sat, Jan 31, 9 am to 12:30 pm PDT**

The AAUW California Public Policy Committee invites folks to join a half-day virtual Symposium.

Participants will hear a keynote address on the impact of new federal laws and policies on California's protective laws; a panel discussion on how AAUW members can support students, parents, and school board members in the face of challenges and

misinformation; and participate in workshops on effectively recruiting school board members and forming collaborations for greater impact.

Register for the event [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

**January Birthdays**

Heida Biddle	17
Wanda Holland Greene	8
Jean Feeney	10

**HISTORY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA BRANCH, AAUW**

The San Francisco Branch of the AAUW saw its beginning in 1885 when Miss Sarah Dix Hamlin was asked to organize a branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae in California. At the request of Miss Marion Talbot, a co-founder of the Association in Boston in 1881, Miss Hamlin and a committee organized the Pacific Association of Collegiate Alumnae, whose Constitution and Bylaws were adopted on September 12, 1885.

The new group's objective was to "unite alumnae of different institutions for practical educational

work." During the fifteen remaining years of the nineteenth century the Association worked for the acceptance of women in higher education and in public school education. Thus, in 1891 a woman physician was appointed as examiner at the University of California, which resulted in making the gymnasium available to women students. In 1892 the Association worked for the passage of a legislative bill permitting women to vote for school officers and on school questions. The first Committee for Study of Child Psychology was formed this year. Two years later the Committee's work was given national recognition. In 1894, the Settlement Association of San Francisco was

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organized, and the first social settlement on the Pacific Coast was established by the Branch.

Miss Emma Noonan, a graduate of the University of California and an Association member, initiated the first playground at a school. In 1896, at the request of the members, Governor James Budd named the first woman regent of the University of California. This was Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, a member of our Branch. Dr. Millicent Shinn, a charter member of the Branch, was the first woman to receive the Doctor

of Philosophy degree from the University of California.

#### FOUNDERS

Sarah Treat Child	Gertrude Mason
Mary A Crittenden	Belle Miller
Sarah Dix Hamlin	May Treat Morrison
Caroline C. Jackson	Millicent W Shinn
Ida Benfey Judd	Dr. Sarah I Shuey
Mary Adams Kellogg	Kate M. Wertz

## L'artiste Berthe

This lovely portrait of a young woman with violets was painted in 1872 by the artist Edouard Manet who just happened to become her brother-in law.

The young woman was Berthe Morisot who also did a "bit



of painting" herself in the late 1800s. She later married Eugene Manet, also a well-known Impressionist painter and brother of Edouard. Currently, the Legion of Honor in San Francisco has an exhibit featuring work by both Manet and Morisot. Well worth seeing. Here's a bit of background information about the career of Berthe

Morisot and her challenge to join the circle of mainly male painters in Paris who were to become known as the Impressionists.

Berthe, and her sister and confidant, Edma, had grown up in a bourgeois Parisian family who considered a well-rounded education needed to include an understanding of

art. The parents hired private tutors for the girls since, at that time, females were not able to enroll in public art schools. The girls registered as copyists at the Louvre to prevent the need to bring chaperones for each visit. It was there that they met and became good friends with a large circle of artists including the great landscape painter Camille Corot who became Berthe's mentor. Through him she met an eclectic group of up and coming artists such as Edouard Manet, Edgar Degas, and Claude Monet who all became her friends. While posing for them, she was able to observe their techniques, and ask for suggestions for her own work. Berthe was now determined more than ever before that she wanted to be a professional artist. She had been accepted into the inner circle of mostly male Impressionists artists and definitely their equal in talent and grit.

In 1864 it was quite an accomplishment for Berthe to receive her first invitation to display her work in the Salon de Paris, which was considered the greatest annual or biennial art event prior to 1890. Berthe was pleased to show off her considerable talents among the mostly male artists. All went so well that she continued to be invited to participate in all but one of the following eight impressionist exhibitions between 1874 and 1886.

Her daughter, Julie Manet, became her favorite model as well as an accomplished painter herself. It was while nursing young Julie through a bout with pneumonia that Berthe became ill and passed away herself at the relatively young age of 54.

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Today Berthe is considered to be one of the greatest artists of the Impressionist movement and one of the few successful women in the field. One of her paintings was recently up for auction at Christies at about \$3,000,000. Since she was financially secure during her lifetime, Berthe did not have the need to sell a great many of her works. The Musee Marmottan in Paris has the largest collection of



her oils and water colors with the permission of her descendants.

A quote from Berthe: "I don't think there has ever been a man who treated a woman as an equal and that's all I would have asked for. I know I am worth as much as they are."

Pat Camarena

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

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

[www.marmotten.fr](http://www.marmotten.fr)



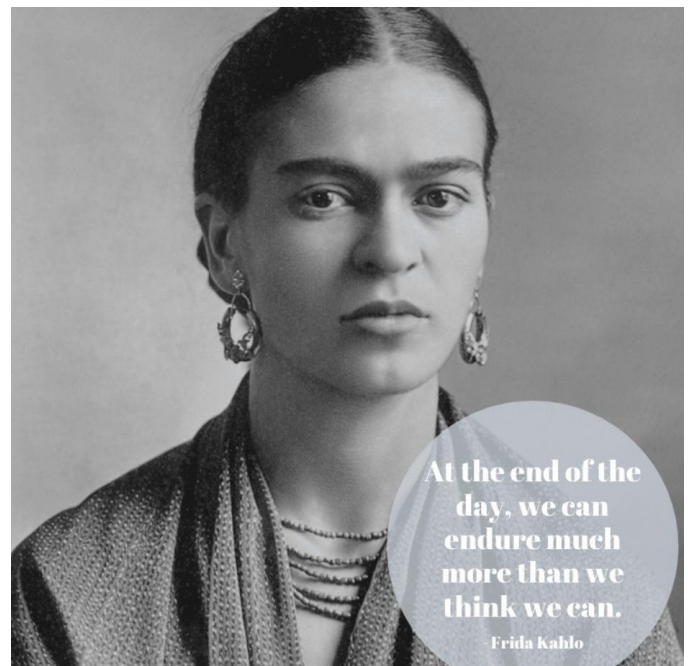
## [December 2025 California Compass](#)

### DISCRIMINATION

"Tremendous amounts of talent are being lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt." – **Shirley Chisholm**, first Black woman elected to U.S. Congress

"A girl should not expect special privileges because of her sex but neither should she adjust to prejudice and discrimination." – **Betty Friedan**, writer and activist credited with sparking the 20th-century wave of feminism

"I raise up my voice—not so I can shout but so that those without a voice can be heard.. We cannot succeed when half of us are held back." – **Malala Yousafzai**, Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate



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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>

#### AAUW-SF Board

##### Contact Us:

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

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[Roli Wendorf](#)

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Kelly Joseph

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Barbara Spencer  
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Rosaura Valle

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Barbara Spencer

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Sheila Bost

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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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