



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

February 2026

## Month at a Glance

February 4 at 7:30 pm - TTAG Committee Meeting - via ZOOM

Contact Rosaura Valle

February 16, 7 pm - International Book Group

Hostess: Nancy Shapiro

contact Nancy for book title

February 20, 1:30 pm - AAUWSF Friday Afternoon Book Group

Place: Paula Campbell

Table for Two by Amor Towles

Coordinator: Michelle Mammini

February 26, 7:30 pm - Book /Author: Heartwood by Amity Gaige

Our discussion leader is Sandra Tye

RSVP Elaine Butler

## Co-Presidents' Message

**HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!**

We are still basking in the glow of our wonderful branch 140th anniversary celebration. Kathleen Cha inspired us with her slides and tales of our early members' contributions to the San Francisco community. We have a copy of her slides if anyone would like to see them.

### Tech Trek

It is February, and we are gearing up for Tech Trek nominations and selection. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the interview process, which is set for March 14 and 15. If you volunteer, you must read and agree to the conduct agreement; it's not onerous and may be found [HERE](#) . We will have a zoom interview prep meeting at 7pm on March 12 and the selection meeting on March 21. If you would like to participate, please contact me. We hope to send 15 girls to camp this summer.

### Silver Jubilee

### Scholarships

We have just updated our website with the Silver Jubilee information and forms. We give \$3,000 scholarships to women who will be entering their last two years of graduate or undergraduate education. The full requirements are set forth in the website at [aauwsf.org](http://aauwsf.org). The deadline for submitting applications is March 31, 2026. Please spread the word.

I'm just back from a wonderful trip to Norway and Finland where I saw the Northern Lights in all their glory.

**Warmly, Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

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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.

## February Birthdays

Tracey Harding	February 2
Brian Dierking	February 10
Corrinne Sacks	February 25
Joan Varrone	February 28

## Member Services

### Public Policy

#### Two-Minute Activist

Join AAUW in the fight for gender equity!

[Sign Up](#) to get regular alerts on when and how to engage on pressing issues.

### Book Recommendation:

Recommended by Amy Hom, AAUW California  
Director & Public Policy Co-chair.

***On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by Timothy Snyder (2017)**

- ...“is a short, accessible, and timely read. Snyder, a historian of Central and Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Holocaust, distills essential lessons from 20th-century history to show how Americans can safeguard democratic freedoms and fight back against rising autocracy.”

## Wondering what TTAG is doing?

A lot is happening on the TTAG front. If you want to keep abreast of the Tech Trek Alumnae, you can sign up on the TTAG Newsletter distribution mailing list (email: [rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com))

OR simply access the monthly Newsletter on the website at: <https://sanfrancisco-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek-alumnae-group/>

This weekend I had the fortunate opportunity to join my daughter and other TTAG members on a visit to the University of California, Davis as a chaperone. It was a memorable, informative trip, and I'm grateful I was able to participate. Here is my field report.

Roughly a dozen girls—from freshmen to juniors—attended from various high schools across San Francisco. It was

wonderful to see such a wide range of ages and schools represented. Choosing a college can feel overwhelming for both students and parents, and being on campus helped make the process feel more tangible and approachable.

We began our tour at the Welcome Center and explored the library, several academic areas, and the Quad, all on foot. I had never visited the campus before and was pleasantly surprised by how walkable and bike-friendly it is. The sheer number of bikes was impressive, and the multiuse trails and arboretum offered a beautiful natural space for the girls to enjoy.

Next, we headed to the Segundo student commons and had lunch in the dining hall. Although it was the weekend and some stations were closed, there was still a wide variety of options, including choices for students with dietary restrictions or allergies. The girls had time to socialize, bond, and get a sense of what daily life in a college environment might feel like.

Two Tech Trek alumni currently attending UC Davis met us and generously guided us through the residential areas.

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They spent a couple of hours with the group, hosting a lively Q&A session. The girls asked thoughtful questions about daily routines, balancing freedom with responsibility, navigating admissions, academic rigor, and applying for financial aid.

To wrap up the day, we visited the Student Community Center, the Silo, and the on-campus art museum. After getting plenty of steps in, the girls enjoyed a well-earned nap on the ride back to San Francisco—newly inspired by what college, and UC Davis in particular, might offer.

A special thanks to Rosaura for her excellent organization and to the fellow parent chaperones who helped make the day run so smoothly.

**Tracey Harding, Tech Trek Chaperone**



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**MAKING HER WAY IN A MAN'S WORLD IN WYOMING**

Almost fifty years before the nineteenth amendment gave American women the right to vote, Esther Morris became our nation's first female judge. The Wyoming Territorial legislature had granted women the right to vote IN 1869. With that right came other benefits of full citizenship including the right to hold a public office or become a juror. At the age of 55, Esther, who had only been living in the gold rush boom town of South Pass for less than a year, marched down to the legislative office, applied for the position of justice of the peace, and was accepted. Some of the local citizens of this rough town were skeptical of a woman being able to succeed in this rough town of 2,000 inhabitants which boasted of having two breweries, a dozen saloons, and several brothels. Admittedly her job was not easy, however she put her considerable energies into fulfilling her duties. A few of her official responsibilities included picking juries, canvassing voters after elections, and monitoring ballot boxes, and she held the office for eight and a half months. It is said that she presided in about 30 civil actions, and only one of her rulings was appealed, although a later higher court affirmed her earlier decision.



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After she finished her term of office, Esther burgeoning suffrage movement, including read at a national suffrage convention in printed in a Laramie newspaper for all Wyoming Territory achieved statehood was invited to be a part of the big celebration. She was chosen to present the flag of the new state to the first governor in behalf of the women of Wyoming.

took a minor role in the writing a speech that was Washington in 1871 and was citizens to read. When the twenty years later, Esther

Not much is mentioned about Esther Morris in the history books, but her state did not forget her. She set the pace for other women to taken the plunge and aspire to public office. In 1962, a statue of Esther was erected in front of Cheyenne's State Capitol. She is also one of only nine women whose statues grace the National Statuary Hall in the Capitol in Washington where each state is allowed to place just two representative citizens.

[www.highplainspress.com](http://www.highplainspress.com)

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

[www.nps.gov/people](http://www.nps.gov/people)

**Pat Camarena**

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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

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**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research**

<p><b>Marie Curie &amp; AAUW</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>Academie des Sciences</i> 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.</p>	<p><b>Pay Equity</b></p> <p>AAUW has been on the front lines fighting for Pay Equity for over a hundred years.</p> <p>AAUW was there in the Oval Office in 1963 when President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law.</p> <p>AAUW was there in 2009 when President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>AAUW will continue the fight to achieve pay equity; the economic security of American families depends on it.</p>	<p><b>Legal Advocacy Fund</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The LAF Board only approves support of cases which are currently involved in litigation, and that have the potential to set legal precedent.</p> <p>The Legal Advocacy Fund's annual Progress in Equity Award recognizes indicative and replicable college and university programs.</p>
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