



President's Message

Welcome Brunch

Our Welcome Brunch will be held on Sunday, September 18, 10:30am at my home, 736 3rd Avenue. Please join us to kick off our branch's new year. Learn about the programs planned for the year, the interest group's activities, and catch up with friends both old and new. Our Tech Trek girls have been invited to come and tell us about their experiences at camp. We will have our usual array of fabulous food, and you will be able to admire the branch's silver tea service. Please RSVP by calling 221-6690.



Election Issues

We have accepted the invitation of the Older Women's League to co-sponsor a meeting to discuss selected charter amendments that will appear on the November ballot and the significance of ranked choice voting on the mayoral election. The meeting is Saturday, September 24, 10am – noon, at San Francisco Main Library, Hispanic Room. The meeting is open to all and should be very informative. Please come and support our efforts to partner with other organizations.

<http://www.owlsf.org/index.php>

Barbara Spencer
Co-President

Welcome September!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Barbara Spencer's home for this program year's kick-off. I'm not sure how many of you have children in school, but this Monday was an exciting time for my 5th grader. Her only regret was that classes started at the same time as the Girls Science Institute at the Exploratorium, so she was unable to learn about engineering.

I'm also pleased that we made it back from the East Coast ahead of Ms. Irene - our days were filled with fun and sun on Chappaquiddick and Fire Island. Sadly, we returned home to find that one of our dear friends has accepted hospice care, and the community has rallied to support her family. For those of you facing similar struggle and loss, we've found this website to be a great help: www.LotsaHelpingHands.org



Our Tech Trek girls have delightful stories of adventure and self-discovery to share - please take a few moments to stop and chat with them during the Welcome Tea. And in the mode of Life Long Learning, please keep an eye on the Avanti for opportunities to become more engaged in the civic life of this wonderful city - San Francisco!

Deirdre Araujo
Co-President

Beauty and Poetry

Pat Camarena

Equality in education for women was certainly not a high priority in the early 1800s when Maria was born. Fortunately Maria Mitchell was born into a large Quaker family on Nantucket in 1818. This Quaker family educated all their children equally regardless of gender. Her father, an astronomer and teacher, realized and encouraged Maria's interest in astronomy from an early age. As a young adult, Maria became a teacher and librarian on the island. At the age of 29, while using a telescope on the roof of her parent's house, she discovered a comet. Only one other woman, a Britisher, Caroline Herschel, had previously done so many years earlier. Maria's discovery was dubbed "Miss Mitchell's Comet". Maria went on to become the first professor of astronomy at Vassar College as well as the first woman member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

While director of the Vassar College observatory, she learned that her earnings were less than that of many younger male professors. She insisted on a commensurate salary increase and got it. Maria was elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Women. Having strong anti-slavery and feminist views, she counted women such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton among her friends. Maria was presented with a gold medal by Denmark's King Frederick VII to honor her comet discovery. This recognition gained her worldwide fame. After her death, Maria's name was bestowed upon both a lunar crater and a WWII liberty ship.

The following wise and timely words from Maria Mitchell more than one hundred thirty years ago have relevance today: "We especially need imagination in science. It is not all mathematics, nor all logic, but is somewhat beauty and poetry". Hopefully our tech trek girls will have absorbed some of Maria's philosophy and will go on to make their own discoveries and use their imagination to find the beauty in science and mathematics as Maria did so long ago.

www.uua.org

www.lucidcafe.com

www.wikipedia.org

What is In2Books?

In2Books is a curriculum-based eMentoring program that connects caring adult volunteers with 3rd – 5th grade students from under-resourced communities for an online dialogue about books. This authentic learning experience motivates students to read more closely and think more deeply about book content while building digital literacy skills and providing students with adult role models. Over the past 10 years, In2Books has demonstrated that participating children become more excited about learning and have increased standardized test scores. Its positive impact has been described in the *Reading Teacher* (2007, vol 60, 728-739) and *Phi Delta Kappan* (2007, vol 88, 498-502).

What does an In2Books eMentor do? The eMentor plays an integral role as a "pen pal" in the program by reading a series of up to 5 books selected by the student and exchanging thought-provoking online letters about the books with that student to create an ongoing intellectual dialogue and friendship throughout the school year. Because the experience is virtual, adult pen pals can read their books and write their letters on their own schedule from any place they have an Internet connection. This flexible commitment, requiring only 2-3 hours every 1-2 months from early fall to late spring, is perfect for busy schedules.

How can you get involved? With over 200 elementary classes participating, we need 5,000 adult volunteers! Keep in mind that branches do not have to volunteer together; individuals can do it on their own. Your members can learn more and sign up individually at www.in2books.com. Participants should select "AAUW" from the affiliation menu when registering. Please also note that a \$6 standard background check is part of the registration process in order to ensure the safety of our students. I appreciate your consideration of the In2Books program, and hope members of your community will join us this year. Please don't hesitate to contact pcrane@in2books.com with any questions or requests.

Penny Crane Program Manager, In2Books,
pcrane@in2books.com

Tech Trek Camp Update



Our first donor for the 2012 Tech Trek Camps is Sports Basement - thank you!

Our annual welcome back brunch will feature the girls that you sent to the three camps this last summer. We hope they will share some of their photos, projects and fun that one has as a 13 year old away from home.

Tech Tr
Elaine Butler

Quotes from Camp Grace Hopper, Stanford

What I really enjoyed was my core class Food Chemistry. It taught me how to eat a better diet and how many fats are in various types of food (Jenny).

I really enjoyed professional women's night. These women have opened my eyes to all the science opportunities (Michelle).

I really liked meeting all these new friends, who are as interested in learning as I am. I hope our friendships will continue to blossom for years to come (Megan).

I thought brain training would be a boring class, full of solving math problems but Ms. Pat made it in an interesting and challenging experience. In addition, I loved the variety of food that was available to us – buffet every day! (Kristen).

I really enjoyed the Pixar Presentation because I love all of their movies. I got to see how my favorite characters come to life on the movie screen (Katie).

You can see the camp video and more pictures on the Stanford page of the Tech Trek website (www.aauw-techtrek.org). You can also view the CBS video from the home page. Every camper will receive a copy of the camp video in a few weeks; each branch also receives one.

<http://www.aauw-techtrek.org/stanford/>

Tech Trek Girls, Camp Hopper



Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 6:30 p.m., for potluck with meeting at 7 p.m., at Marilyn's Leal's home, 4325 19th Street. All members are invited. RSVP Marilyn at 626-4110.

Afternoon with Books

Friday, September 16th, 1:30 PM
We meet the third Friday in the afternoon and usually finish by 3pm. We read fiction, non-fiction, bestsellers and the obscure.

Hostess: Catherine Hsuan.

Location: Sports Basement, 1590 Bryant St., underground parking off Florida St.

Book: THE CANDLESTICKS AND THE CROSS, by Ruth Freeman Solomon

RSVP: Catherine at 373-3579 (note her film maker son would like to know if this would make a good movie).

International Book Group

Monday, September 19th, 7:00pm
This group meets the third Thursday at member's homes. We all read and discuss the same book.

Hostess: Mary Graves, 2901 Broderick Street, SF

Book: POLAR STAR, by Martin Cruz Smith.

RSVP: Mary at 563-3610

Mystery/Adventure

Thursday, September 22nd, 7:30pm
Very Special Meeting! We meet the 4th Thursday except during holidays, then it's the 3rd Thursday. This is our annual book choice meeting. We choose 11 books, reviewers and hostesses/hosts.
Hostess: Angie Durso, 2 Parkridge Dr. # 9. Bring your suggestions and be prepared to vote and volunteer!
RSVP: Angie at 826-5941.

Travel Group

The quilts at the Museum of African Diaspora were well worth our trip. We will be going to the Fall Festival at Filoli in October. Visitors get to taste the many kinds of apples and pears that grow in their orchard. Tours of the gardens and orchards are available. The food is served in the house. Watch the AVANTI for more information.

The Paradox of Professionalism

The North Peninsula AAUW branch will host an important talk by Roz D. Lasker, MD, **on October 17, 2011, 2 to 4 PM, in the Franciscan Clubhouse, 700 Hoffman Dr., Daly City, CA 94014.**

Dr. Lasker is an independent consultant. She was Director of the Division of Public Health and the Center for the Advancement of

Collaborative Strategies in Health at the New York Academy of Medicine, as well as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Policy Development) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The title of her lecture is "The Paradox of Professionalism," about the growing distance between the ever better-equipped humanitarian "expert" and those whom the expert seeks to assist. She has just returned from a conference in London on this subject. Dr. Lasker is known internationally for her work on public participation in community planning, problem solving, and policy development.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret M. Ellis at 650-755-2516.

You can also check the AAUW-NP website for the October meeting:

<http://www.aauw-np.org/calendar.html>

Tech Trek Donation Form

I'm interested in sponsoring girls to go to Tech Trek 2012! I pledge the following amount towards sending girls to camp.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200
 \$800 (1 girl) \$ _____

Make checks payable to AAUW-CA SPF with Tech Trek SF in the memo line.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail your donation addressed to:

Elaine Butler, 124 Amber Dr., San Francisco, CA 94131-1626

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**AAUW/San Mateo to Sponsor
Inter-Branch Council Event**

The American Association of University Women/San Mateo (AAUW/San Mateo) is hosting a Public Policy program entitled "How AAUW is making a difference in Sacramento" on October 15, 2011, at 1pm in the College of San Mateo district office boardroom, 3401 CSM Drive, San Mateo. This event is free and open to the public. Invited guests are members of the AAUW Inter-Branch Council, that includes San Francisco, North Peninsula, Half Moon Bay, Pacifica, Menlo-Atherton and San Carlos branches.

The guest speaker will be Sue Miller, AAUW-CA Vice President and Public Policy Director. Ms. Miller has served on the State AAUW Board of Directors as Vice President for 3 years and Public Policy Director for 3 years. Prior to holding these offices she was AAUW CA Northern District Director, as well as being President of the Roseville-South Placer Branch four times during her thirty-plus years as a branch member. She was instrumental, along with leaders from several branches in the state, in developing a "Position Paper on the California Budget 2011-2012 – Revenue, Reductions, Reforms" which was given to Governor Brown and leaders in the California Legislature.

Sue will concentrate primarily the current financial crises that adversely affect women due to drastic budget cuts at the state and federal levels.

This includes the protection of programs that meet the needs of women and girls in elementary, secondary and postsecondary education, including vigorous enforcement of Title IX and other civil rights laws pertaining to education.

For more information, e-mail bettybernst@aol.com or 650-343-9137.

AAUWSF Budget 2011-2012

Operating Expenses	\$	2,930.00
President	\$	1,020.00
Branch Web Site	\$	200.00
Programs	\$	1,600.00
Board Retreat	\$	200.00
Membership	\$	935.00
Treasurer	\$	100.00
Education Foundation	\$	220.00
Legal Advocacy Fund	\$	20.00
Avanti	\$	700.00
Public Policy	\$	150.00
Tech Trek	\$	3,180.00
Total Expenses	\$	<u>11,255.00</u>

**Get the Avanti
Faster**

If you'd like to receive the Avanti via email notice rather than US mail, please tell the Membership VP, and then a printed copy will not be sent to you. If you prefer, we will continue to print and mail the Avanti to you.

Avanti Articles

Please remember to submit Avanti articles to Cathy Corcoran by the 25th of each month via email to: corcoranCF@gmail.com

Playing Now

Paula Campbell

August Wilson is the most important African American playwright of our time. His goal was to write a play for every decade of the 20th century; each play chronicling the Black experience of that decade in the U.S. The ten plays won a total of two Pulitzer Prizes, seven Drama Critics' Circle awards, and three American Theatre Critics' awards.

Seven Guitars, now playing at the Marin Theatre Company, is Wilson's play for the 1940's. The seven guitars of the title refer to the seven characters in the play. Each character has his/her own unique voice. Set in a ramshackle backyard in the black ghetto known as the Hill District of Pittsburgh, PA (where Wilson grew up) the play tells a story of love, anger, madness, and the sorry consequences that befall those trapped in a situation they are desperate to change, but can't.

The play begins and ends with mourners returning from a funeral – the first funeral is of someone we hear spoken of but haven't met, the second is of one of the plays' main characters. Wilson's language is rich – idiomatic, poetic, heart piercing. His characters, four men and three women, are as likely to break into song or dance as into laughter or fury. Each dreams of something better in life, none seem likely to achieve it.

Unfortunately, this production does not meet the bar set by two previous productions I've seen. There are many reasons, but the primary one is that at a full three hours the play seems to drag – the audience squirms in its seats, all around the theatre people are checking their watches. Of particular interest to me is that although one of the productions I saw was even longer in actual playing time, the time flew by as the play was well paced and the interludes of singing and dancing didn't appear designed to deliberately lengthen the performance time, as is the case in this production.

The next big problem lies with the acting/directing. The main male character opens at full throttle – he is furious, frustrated, enraged, shouting, even shrill. And there his character stays for the next three hours. He has nowhere to go after that – no way to build emotion, to develop character. Whether this is the design of the actor or the director is a question, but whoever let it happen has seriously wounded the

production. It's an old adage in theatre – never start a character at the top because then there's no place to go.

It's hard to put a finger on what's wrong overall with the production, but it seems to me there's a kind of carelessness, a lack of attention to detail, that pervades it. An example occurs in the first act, in a long scene in which someone wants to buy a pack of Old Gold cigarettes from a seller who doesn't have them. She settles for Chesterfields and proceeds to open the pack. Bear in mind that the play is set in 1948. The pack she opens is a cardboard box with a flip top. In 1948, cigarette packs were cellophane covered paper cases, which were opened at the top by removing the cellophane and tearing the paper and foil lining to make a square opening at the top of the paper pack. Flip top packs were introduced in 1955, when Philip Morris launched Marlboro. Theatrical prop shops carry period everything – it would have been easy to get the right type cigarette pack, but apparently no one noticed or bothered to check. This may seem a small thing, but it's indicative of a lot of what goes wrong with this production.

It's sad to see a wonderful play like **Seven Guitars** in a flawed production. The play itself is beautiful, the costumes, set, lighting innovative, many of the actors outstanding. But overall, it's hard to sit through. I wonder how many audience members will want to see another August Wilson play after their experience with this one. Wilson is the premier African American playwright of the 20th century, his work deserves better than this.

Seven Guitars, through Sept.11, 2011. Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, CA. Tix at phone box office 415- 388-5208, or online

https://tickets.marintheatre.org/TheatreManager/1/tmlogin.html?P_SEQ=. Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8pm, Wed 7:30pm, and Sat, Sun 2pm.

Reproductive Health Event

The UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health will be presenting a symposium on Reproductive Health Politics, Policy and Evidence:

Friday, September 23, 1:30-6:00pm Mission Bay Conference Center.

WIN AND GAE Event

You are invited to join with **Women's Intercultural Network (WIN) and Global Arts and Education (GAE)** for conversation and action on issues that matter at a community roundtable and call to action on Women's Economic Justice and Security:

Tuesday, September 13, 2011, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Lorraine Hansberry Theater

Union Square - 450 Post Street, San Francisco, 94102

Rose Aguilar, Host of 'Your Call Radio' on KALW, 91.7 will moderate the second of four Roundtables with a stellar panel: Arcelia Hurtado, Ethel Long-Scott, Kaki Rushmore and Special Guest Jean Shinoda Bolen followed by an interactive Q&A with YOU, the audience, for action plans on priority issues addressed at the San Francisco International Women's Day Summit and California Women's Agenda. Food will be provided by BIA's Restaurant in the Haight and others. Reserve your seat at Brown Paper tickets here:

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/195662>

AAUW Web Pages

News Page & Media Alerts: (use links on page to subscribe) www.aauw.org/

[About/newsroom/news/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/About/newsroom/news/index.cfm)

Actions to take: www.aauw.org/issue_advocacy/actionpages/index.cfm **Mission in**

Action: www.aauw.org/publications/mission/index.cfm

Two Minute Activities: capwiz.com/aauw/home.

US Congressional Voting Record

aauwaction.org/VoterEd/CVR.htm.

AAUW Celebrates Decision in *Mansourian v. Regents of the University of California*

WASHINGTON — The American Association of University Women (AAUW) applauds the decision handed down this week by a U.S. District Court in California in the AAUW-supported case *Mansourian v. Regents of the University of California*. The court found that the university violated Title IX by refusing to provide female students with an equal opportunity to participate in intercollegiate athletics while the plaintiffs were students.

"AAUW adopted the case in 2005, and we have extended financial and organizational support to the plaintiffs since that time. Our members have

encouraged and championed these athletes on their long road to justice. Today victory has finally come, and we couldn't be more thrilled," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE.

Arezou Mansourian, Lauren Mancuso, Nancy Chiang, and Christine Ng — former students and members of the wrestling team at the University of California, Davis, — claimed sex discrimination in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 after they were allegedly cut from the wrestling team for no reason. For nearly a decade, their case went through different courts to decide if there was sufficient notice of the discrimination, not on whether or not discrimination occurred. In February 2010, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals remanded the matter for trial and reinstated the plaintiffs' Title IX claims against the university and equal protection claims against the individual defendants. When their case went to trial in May, AAUW members were in the courtroom daily to provide moral support.

"This was a case that brought together many generations of AAUW supporters of Title IX's important goals. These women wrestlers challenged preconceived notions of the place of women in contact sports. This modern-day fight for equality built upon the great work of many women who have demanded equal treatment at schools," said plaintiffs' attorney Noreen Farrell. "AAUW supporters were with us every day in this case, which has energized the cause of gender equity in education. While the individual university officials were not held liable, the institution was, and ultimately it's the institution that is responsible to uphold gender equity. Justice was served on that front."

Plaintiff Christine Ng has said that she and her co-plaintiffs were standing up for all girls and women trying to participate in contact sports, where stigmas against women remain strong. In fact, all four plaintiffs claim that they chose to attend UC Davis specifically because the school offered women's wrestling.

Since 1981, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has disbursed nearly \$2 million to more than 100 plaintiffs to help offset their legal fees in sex discrimination cases and has been instrumental to the success of many cases.

Online AAUW Branch

There is an online AAUW California Branch at www.AAUWCaOnline.org. Their dues are \$10 if you're already a member.

Quick LAF clicks

Sexual Assault on Campus: www.aauw.org/laf/library/assault.cfm

Chief Justice John Roberts' effect on Title IX? www.aauw.org/newsroom/news/05LADailyNews_RobertsOPED.cfm

State Directory

AAUW CA Directory is posted in searchable PDF format. Both documents can be found in the Forms & Documents section, under Branch Administration, [HERE](#). Hard copies of the directory are available for purchase. Send your request, with a \$10 check to AAUW CA Office, PO Box 160067, Sacramento, CA 95816-0067.

September Birthdays

- Nada Mayo, September 2nd
- Barbara Spencer, September 11th
- Mary Worth, September 18th
- Kathe Traynor, September 24th
- Janice Gonsalves, September 24th
- Mardi Keldebeck, September 25th

Birthday Not Announced?

If your birthday is not there and you'd like to have it included (or corrected), contact the Membership VP.

Any 50-year Members?

If you've been an AAUW member for 50 years, contact the Membership VP to have AAUW national and state give you an honorary life membership.

Membership Updates

If you change your address, kindly notify the Membership Chair.

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Board Meeting	15	16 Afternoon with Books	17
18 Welcome Brunch	19 International Book Club	20	21	22 Mystery Adventure	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

"Staying in school is one of our best crime prevention tools, and it requires the collaborative efforts of all of us to make it happen."

Jon S. Corzine, New Jersey Governor



125 Years
San Francisco

Board Meeting



Gloria Bennett, Dr. Sierra Caracci-Installation

AAUW
 SAN
 FRANCISCO
 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SEPT. 2011-JUNE 2012

September 18
 Welcome Brunch
 Tech Trek Girls
 Barbara Spencer, hostess

October 15-Women and the
 Everyday City Library Tour &
 walk led by Jessica Sell

November 6-Pay Equity
 Title IX-Peggy Kavounas

December 11
 Holiday Party
 Primo Patio

January 22- Sunday-Andrea
 Laudate Hostess-IBC Event

February 5- Pat Morin-
 Educational VP- Program

March- 18 Sunday- Pat
 Camarena & Artists
 Her Stories

April- 26 Thursday-
 Read a book, see the
 Movie
 get together for
 review

May 1 Sunday-
 AAUW Inside/Out

June 25 Sunday
 Installation

Hot Story



manalwadde@yahoo.com or 415-484-6789 for more information