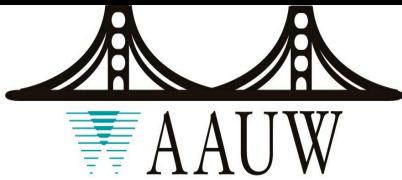


✧ AVANTI ✧

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

www.aauwssf.org

March 2009



125 Years

San Francisco

**Celebrate with the San Francisco
Branch
of AAUW
125 years of helping women and
girls.**

**Saturday, March 21, 2009
San Francisco State University
Seven Hills Conference Room
10 AM to 2 PM – Lunch provided
Keynote Speaker: San Francisco
Supervisor Sophie Maxwell
Kathleen Cha, Past SF & State President
Halberstadt Fencing Club-women's
demo**

**Branch Essay Contest Winner
Announced**

**American Revolution:
Women Take Their Place
Music by Brother Cat**

**Please RSVP with t-shirt size
mamalaudate@yahoo.com**

This is a free event

Presidents' Messages

March is finally here and we have much to celebrate! Our branch is 125 years young. We invite you to bring a friend and join us for our celebration on March 21st. You'll find more details in this

newsletter. The best part is having fun with our members and the second best part is that the event is **Free!!**

As we move forward, we encourage you to let us know what interests you and what you'd like our focus to be for year 126. Are there events you'd like to chair or programs you'd like to create? Please attend our board meetings, email or write to us with your ideas. We also need officers for next year ...so think about it.

See you on the 21st,
Kelly

Board Meeting

**Wednesday, March 4th, 6:30 pm potluck dinner,
7:00 meeting starts, at Marilyn Leal's, 4325 19th St.
All members are invited to attend.**

International Book Group

Monday, March 16th, 7pm at Barbara Spencers' home, 736 3rd Ave (Funston). We are reading: **White Tiger** by Aravind Adiga RSVP Barbara at: 221-6690

Afternoon with Books

Friday, March 20th, 1:30 pm, at Elaine Butler's home, 124 Amber Dr. Our book for this month is: **Zookeeper's Wife** by Diane Ackerman. Bring suggestions for the next several months of reading. RSVP: Elaine at 826-3172

Travel Club

No trip this month – enjoy the 125th celebration.

Mystery/Adventure

Thursday, March 26th, 7:30 pm, at Joanne Mandel's home, 12 Marne Ave. The book is **The Indian Bride** by Karin Fossum. The reviewer is Pat Camarena. RSVP Joanne at 665-7329.

International Cuisine

March finds us still looking for suggestions. Holly will send an email to regulars if she gets a good suggestion. Contact one of the co-leaders, Holly Millar and Marilyn Leal with a favorite international restaurant.

March Birthdays

Pat Camarena	Mar 1 st
Peggy Kavounas	Mar 8 th
Paula Campbell	Mar 16 th
Beatrice D. Jackson	Mar 19 th
Delores Santos	Mar 23 rd
Virginia Wilson	Mar 29 th

Birthday Not Announced?

Remember, we only record the month and day of your birth. If your birthday is not there and you'd like to have it included (or corrected), contact the Membership Co-VPs.

Any 50-Year Members?

Has anyone been an AAUW member for 50 years? Contact one of the Membership Co-VPs to have AAUW national and state give you an honorary life membership.

New Members

Rena Bancroft
Suzanne Bushnell

Please contact the Membership Chair to get in touch with the new members and give them a warm welcome.

Membership Updates

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

Avanti Articles

Please remember to submit Avanti articles by the 20th.

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

AAUW Web Pages

News Page & Media Alerts: (use links on page to subscribe)

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:
<http://capwiz.com/aauw/home>.

Voting Record for the 110th Congress, First Session (2007):
www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/voter_ed/upload/votingRecord110.pdf.

Tech Trek

Tech Trek Donation Form

I'm interested in sponsoring girls to go to Tech Trek 2009! 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

2008-AAUW-

Co-Presidents

Kelly Joseph
Kelly.Wysinger@sbcglobal.net
415) 821-1737

Andrea Laudate
mamalaudate@yahoo.com
415) 864-6789

EF VP

Phylis Johnson-Silk
theJSilks@SBCGlobal.net
415) 566-2524

Legal Advocacy VP

Barbara Wood
WoodBB@aol.com
415) 681-9663

Membership

Mary Suter
marSuter@yahoo.com
415) 665-1185

Program Co-VPs

Marilyn Leal
mleal@mac.com
415) 626-4110

Joanne Mandel
JMandel6@yahoo.com
415) 665-7329

Secretary

Dawn Wilkes
crmaverick@hotmail.com
650) 735-5184

Treasurer

Cathy Corcoran
CorcoranCF@gmail.com
415) 341-0206

Get the Avanti Faster

If you'd like to receive the Avanti via email or the web, please tell one of the Membership VPs, so that a printed copy will not be sent to you. If you prefer, we can continue to print and mail you the Avanti.

2009 SF Board

Avanti Editor

Stephen Butler

415) 826-3172

Steve.Butler.sf@SBCGlobal.net

Public Policy

Sheila Bost

wawonast@earthlink.net

415) 664-4985

Silver Jubilee Fund Chair

Barbara Spencer

BCSpencer@comcast.net

415) 221-5743

Tech Trek

Elaine Butler

**Calif. AAUW Membership
Committee**

Elaine.Butler.sf@SBCGlobal.net

SBCGlobal.net

415) 826-3172

Web Mistress

Marilyn Z. Smith

SmithMZ@hotmail.com

415) 543-5307

Why are Some Non- Titles Underlined?

Read the Avanti at our website and click on the underlined phrase, it opens a browser on a more complete article or an email to the member's address.

Online AAUW Branch

There is an online AAUW California Branch at www.AAUWCaOnline.org.

Their dues are \$10 if you're already a member.

White House Women ... A Pop Quiz

Pat Camarena

A new US President usually means a new first lady as well. There have been many women to take

on that challenging role over the past 200 plus years. Here is a little trivia quiz, which illustrates the varied backgrounds and interests that some of these individuals have brought with them to their demanding positions in Washington. The answers are elsewhere in the Avanti. See how many names you can figure out without looking.

- These two women were young widows with children when they each married sons of Virginia, both of whom would soon become two of our first five presidents.
- This poised Pennsylvania woman was considered "first lady" but was not the president's wife. She called him "Nunc". He remained a bachelor.
- This wartime first lady has been described as a leading advocate of human rights in Burma. She traveled there to bring attention to refugee abuses.
- Before becoming first lady, this woman lived in Manila while her husband was in charge of the American civil government. She is responsible for requesting the planting of the much admired cherry trees in the D.C. Tidal Basin.
- A sheltered semi-invalid, she moved into the White House plagued by epileptic seizures. Although frail, she outlived her assassinated husband.
- Prior to her years in the White House, she accompanied her soldier husband to often-remote military forts. During the Civil War she joined him as near to the battlefields as possible whenever she could.
- This first lady attended Harvard and Princeton. After securing her

law degree, she pursued her interests in community service, volunteerism, and urban development.

For more information and/or bits of trivia about our American first ladies especially during Women's History month, try this website: www.whitehouse.gov.

Tech Trek for 2009

Our fundraising is nearly complete. We have outstanding pledges and intentions that should they all come in we shall be able to send 12 girls this year. If you have not donated but would like to help us, we would like your check to AAUW-CA SPF by March 15th. Everyone this year is so generous. We thank you one and all. Our latest donors are:

Pat Camarena
Angie Durso
Renee Golanty-Koel
Marilyn Leal
Barbara Scheer
Jane Williams

Women's Educational Gains and the Gender Earnings Gap (2008)

See Pay Gap Among College-Educated Women and Men, State by State at www.aauw.org/research/statedata/index.cfm

Click on any state to see Median Wage and Salary Earnings for Women and Men Working Full Time, Year-Round, 2004-2006

Forthcoming Travel Club

April 19th Russian River Rose Co
May 17th Heath Ceramics
Sept. 20th Jewish Museum
? Filoli Home & Gardens
? Pardee House

We Will Celebrate our 125th Anniversary this Year!

Our branch is the second oldest in the nation and the oldest in California. Let's make this year's celebration an event to remember. Date is TBA but possibly a weekend in March 2009 to coincide with Women's History Month. If you have ideas for the event(s) or would like to participate in planning or organization and have skills to contribute we'd love to hear from you. Please email Andrea or Kelly, our Co-Presidents.

Women's Legal Rights 4 Down, More to Go

We're getting real results for women and families:

- Global Gag Rule and restrictions on funding for the UN women's health agency — reversed (1/23/2009)
- Children's Health Insurance Program — signed (1/28/2009)
- Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act — signed (1/29/2009)
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — signed (2/17/2009)

But there's so much more to do. There are great needs still to be met and we are moving forward:

- A federal budget that works for women
- Paycheck Fairness Act
- Health care reform that works for women
- Reverse reproductive health restrictions imposed by Bush Administration

Courtesy of National Women's Law Center

www.nwlc.org

Playing Now Paula Campbell

While John Guare's dreadful **Rich and Famous** languished at the Geary Theatre, yet another John Guare play **Landscape of the Body**, opened at SF Playhouse.

While certainly a more interesting, more enjoyable piece of theatre than **Rich**, **Landscape** does not make a totally fulfilling theatrical experience for the audience. In a nutshell, a woman goes to visit her sister, the sister dies, and the woman more or less assumes her sister's life. In full, it's loaded, maybe over loaded, with complex plot details. The woman's sister dies in a hit and run accident, though she returns as a sexy singing ghost to narrate and comment on the action. Her son is murdered and decapitated (much of the play is devoted to her being

questioned by a police interrogator.) Her boss is murdered in a bank robbery, and her suitor from the Deep South, a man she knew her years before, turns out to be a mental patient whose family is waiting to return him to the asylum in which he lives.

The plot, though detailed, is easy to follow, though perhaps less easy to swallow, since it is filled with exaggerated characters and situations, the ghostly singing narrator, and other characters who unexpectedly burst into song. What weakens the play most is this singing. Neither the songs, nor the performance of them, work well. At times it was painful sitting in the audience and watching a child actor struggle with his singing.

What's up with author John Guare and music anyway? Any number of his plays involve characters who sing — and it's Guare himself who writes the music and lyrics. The male lead of his hit play, **House of Blue Leaves**, is a NYC garbage man who yearns to be a Tin Pan Alley success. The play is filled with his songs, which he sings as he bangs them out on the piano. He is a FAILED songwriter, and listening to the songs it's clear why. But apparently Guare didn't think his songs were all that bad. Suffice to say, they are.

What works well in the play are the superb performances of Susi Damilano, Andrew Hurteau, Rona Kangas-Kent, Gabriel Marin, Anthony Miller, and the various child actors. Once again, Bill English's brilliant direction and set design shine.

Landscape of the Body, through March 7. The SF Playhouse, 533 Sutter St. Box Office 677-9596, Tues 7pm, Wed — Sat 8pm, and Sat 3pm

Answers to White House ladies pop quiz.

- Dolley Madison and Martha Washington
- Harriet Land (niece of James Buchanan)
- Laura Bush
- Helen Herron Taft
- Ida Saxton McKinley
- Julia Denton Grant
- Michelle Obama

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.”

Mother Teresa

“Remember no one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 6:30 pm Board Meeting	9	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 7pm International Book Group	17	18	19	20 1:30 pm Afternoon with Books	21 125th Celebration
22	23	24	25	26 7:30 pm Mystery/Adventure	27	28
29	30	31				

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Avanti Editor

AAUW
 San Francisco Branch
 P.O. Box 31405
 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 equity for women and girls. Its national membership of 100,000 seeks to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. 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. It remains the state's most active and diverse organization for women with 14,000 members in more than 150 branches, plus 6,000 members-at-large.



AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, 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. Even one as famous as Madame Marie Curie. As a result, her ground-breaking 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.

Educational Foundation

In 1873, a prominent Boston physician, Dr. E.H. Clarke, wrote a book arguing that too much study would give women brain fever and render their children sickly, if they were to have them at all.

The Association of Collegiate Alumnae (AAUW's chief predecessor) fought this contention in 1885 and won, by gathering data from its members to show that they had suffered no ill health from their college and postgraduate education. In 1888, the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae (founded here in San Francisco) made educational history by establishing the first graduate fellowship for women (given to Vassar graduate Ida Street).

California is still the largest contributor, enabling the Educational Foundation to award nearly \$3 million in grants to women at the dissertation or doctoral level, and to those pursuing career-related or community-based projects.

Legal Advocacy Fund

Founded in 1981, the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to achieve equity for women in higher education by recognizing innovative 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 innovative and replicable college and university programs.