

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE



Empowering Women Since 1881

**Lilly Ledbetter
at the South Bay Women's Conference
Co-Sponsored by AAUW San Jose**

"Deciphering the Code"

Decoding the barriers to girls' and women's pursuit of careers
in science, technology, engineering and math
Saturday, March 8 San Jose State University Student Union
9 am-6 pm Registration at www.southbaywc.org

Full Conference \$30;
Lilly Ledbetter Keynote Speech only \$10
(1-2:15 p.m. Barrett Ballroom,
followed by a book signing)



Especially for AAUW Members:
Pre-Conference Dinner with Lilly
Friday, March 7, 5:30-9 pm
Il Fornaio, St. Claire Room
Sainte Claire Hotel, San Jose
\$65 per-person.



Lilly Ledbetter

Reserve at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/south-bay-womens-conference-private-dinner-reception-with-lilly-ledbetter-tickets-10579975993>

**Meet the inspiration behind the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act,
and hear a true AAUW Heroine.
Don't miss this exceptional gathering!**

Third Wednesday Program

Money Wise Traveling

Judith Kristofferson



So many places, so little time, and that budget shadow lurking over your travel dreams. March's third Wednesday program will help you figure out where you want to go, ways to get there and the best tricks to stretch your travel dollars. Join us at headquarters on March 19 at 7 pm, when the Branch's Financially Fit For Life members present Money Wise Traveling.



Geri Madden, President

In the course of my duties as President, I recently had an opportunity to meet two delightful young ladies from one of our local universities. They were so bright and enthusiastic and surefooted about their futures that I couldn't help but be impressed.

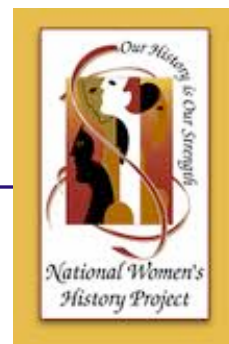
In the course of that meeting however, I was disappointed to learn that they did not know who Lilly Ledbetter is. As we all know, it is in good part because of Lilly Ledbetter's fight for paycheck equity that these young ladies can be so positive about their own futures. Knowing our history is critical to women and girls -- and society -- because historical figures inspire us to achieve our full potential and empower us as individuals to know what is possible.

March is National Women's History Month (NWHM) and this experience underscored for me the true value of having NWHM. When brave and iconic women are ignored in our history books, their acts of personal courage cease to exist for posterity. We may continue to enjoy the results of their actions. We vote because of the courage of the suffragettes; we can choose how many children to have because of the persistence of Margaret Sanger; we raise daughters who expect to be treated equally in the workplace because of people like Lilly Ledbetter. Without knowledge of the women who changed history for us, we are denied the inspiration and personal empowerment that learning their history promises us.

NWHM puts the spotlight on a void in the history that we learn in our traditional education, a void that exacerbates the limits we set for ourselves when we make our life choices. I believe that those limits are set both consciously and subconsciously and are defined by

our life experiences and what we know about the world around us, both past and present.

I would like to start the month of March with a salute to Marion Talbot and Ellen Richards and the other 15 alumnae representing eight colleges who met in Boston in 1881 to discuss the needs of college-educated women. Here I am today, more than 130 years later, meeting with young college women to "discuss the needs of college-educated women." This is why knowing our *herstory* is so important. Knowing where we came from helps us self-determine where we are going. Herstory is Empowering. Join me in celebrating National Women's History Month. Start by going to hear Lilly Ledbetter speak at the South Bay Women's Conference on March 8 at SJSU.



Women's History Month Celebrating Women of Character, Courage & Commitment

Jacqui Gustaferra and Gloria Leonard,
Public Policy Committee

"Celebrating Women of Character, Courage & Commitment" is the 2014 theme of the National Women's History Project. In 1980, The NWHP was joined by hundreds of organizations and individuals when it spearheaded the movement for March to be declared as National Women's History Month. The 2014 theme honors the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women. Women demonstrate their character, courage and commitment as mothers, educators, institution builders, business, labor, political and community leaders and CEOs.

The San Jose Branch stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before us in advancing the mission of AAUW. Is our advocacy effective? A recent inspiring communication from AAUW Public Policy Advisor Lisa Maatz stated that while our Congress isn't doing much these days, AAUW members advocating across the states are effective and successful. For example, AAUW spearheaded legislation that advanced paycheck fairness in New Jersey and Louisiana. AAUW Government Relations Manager Anne Hedgepeth discussed AAUW's commitment to preventing campus sexual assault on NPR (Kansas City Public Media).

In her last public speech, Susan B. Anthony honored the women she had worked with during her life for what she called "simple justice." She ended her speech with a belief that when people of good heart and purpose work together -- "Failure is impossible." All members are welcome to attend the Public Policy Committee meetings (see Bonfire Calendar) as we continue to work for "simple justice."



Headquarters has a Defibrillator (AED)

Linda Guyer

You have probably seen AED boxes at airports and other public places. But do you know what the AED is or when it should be used? An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable device that checks the heart rhythm. If needed, it can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm. AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. This usually causes death if not treated within minutes. In fact, each minute leads to a 10 percent reduction in survival.

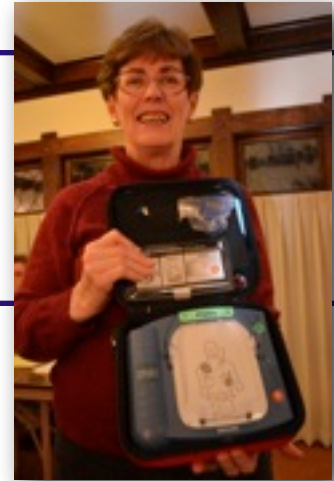
The AED is easy to use. It has instructions and gives you voice prompts to let you know if and when you should send a shock to the heart. Learning how to use an AED and taking a CPR course are helpful. However, if trained personnel aren't available, untrained people also can use an AED to help save someone's life.

Thanks to Pat Diamond and support from the Board, the building committee recently purchased an AED for Headquarters. It is in a white box on the wall as you enter from the back door. It is ready to use. If you see a person suddenly collapse and pass out, or if you find a person already unconscious, you may need to use the AED. Phone 911, then retrieve the AED, pull the tab and follow the audio instructions. The AED will tell you what to do. AAUW members Kathy Myers, Dorothy Wilson and Linda Guyer (all RNs) are available to come to any interest group that meets at HQ to orient your group to the AED. Contact: Linda Guyer 408-316-6094.

If you would like to take a CPR course, Sports Basement in Campbell has a class twice a month on Sundays from 4-7 pm. This is an extensive three hour class. Register online at the Sports Basement website. This course is free.

A one-hour CPR class presenting the new recommendations for "Hands Only CPR" will be given at Headquarters on Thursday, March 13 at 2 pm. Kathy Myers, Dorothy Wilson and Linda Guyer will explain "hands only" and you will be able to practice on a mannequin. Class size limited to 15. Please email Linda or call her at 408-316-6094 if you are interested in this class or if you would like instructions at an Interest Group meeting.

Kathy Myers demonstrates the defibrillator to members at a Neighbors Helping Neighbors meeting.



In Memorium

Geertje Bamford passed away on January 12. Gert graduated from Calvin College and earned an MA for teaching Multilingual Education at San Jose State University. After retiring as a local elementary school principal, she coached student teachers and was a child welfare and attendance officer. Gert had wide interests and was a voracious reader on all subjects. She contributed to the Local Scholarship Boutique and Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Throughout her life, Gert was courageous, optimistic and supportive of others. She will be deeply missed.

Dorothy Viken died peacefully in her sleep October 1, 2013, at the age of 95. She graduated from Mills College in 1940. She joined AAUW shortly after moving to San Jose in 1946. She was active in numerous interest groups including bridge, playreading, and French Conversation (which she helped start in 1968). She was an avid member of Mensa, photographer, botanist, and traveler. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends for her wonderful sense of humor and love of life.

Saundra Hayn passed away on September 17, 2013. Saundra was a respected and loved English teacher in local middle and high schools. She loved music, art and books, but her life passion was equal opportunity for women. She never backed down or stepped away when fighting for this cause. Saundra had recently joined AAUW and was looking forward to being part of our Branch.



Local Scholarship Applications Available

Grace O'Leary, Local Scholarship

Applications for 2014 Local Scholarship awards are available as of March 1 on our Branch website, www.aauwsanjose.org, or at www.Fastweb.com. AAUW San Jose scholarships are awarded annually to women whose permanent home address is in Campbell, Milpitas, San Jose or Santa Clara; who have completed two full years at an accredited college or university; who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher; and who are enrolled in a four-year institution as an undergraduate.

Grants are based on significance of educational goals, scholastic achievements, merits of the application and an interview with members of the Local Scholarship Committee. The number and dollar amounts of the scholarships awarded each year depend on the funds available. This year we will be awarding \$30,000 in scholarships!

Please encourage friends and family members who meet the eligibility requirements to apply. Applications must be postmarked or submitted on-line by April 15. Please direct any questions to Grace O'Leary.



The Title IX struggle continues...

Laura Manthey, Title IX/Sports Equity

I was shocked to read that lawmakers in Washington, D.C. recently "appear poised to pass legislation meant to address large and enduring discrepancies between boys' and girls' sports opportunities in the city's public schools." D.C is currently one of the worst offenders of Title IX. As you know, Title IX is more than 40 years old. Isn't it about time that ALL schools are in compliance?

Oddly, the day after I saw that piece I read an article about a study done by American University, a D.C. institution, in which 2,100 college students were surveyed. The survey showed that young women are far less likely to consider an elective office as a desirable profession. However, the study found that running for office had crossed the minds of 44% of women who had played sports and only 35% of women who had not. If we women want to have a say in the way our country is run, we should demand Title IX compliance and encourage our girls to participate in sport. It's about time!



Tech Excellence

Edna Robison

Tech Excellence brings STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) into the lives of 7th grade girls at John Muir Middle School by introducing them in person to women who have careers in STEM fields. Volunteers are always welcome in the classroom or on field trips. Contact Edna Robison if you are interested.

March 11 Classroom: "Nutrition: Reading Food Labels"
March 18 Field Trip: Intel Museum "Circuit Design and Tour"

AAUW CA CONVENTION

April 11-13
LAX Marriot



AAUW CA Convention 2014

E³ = ENGAGE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER

This is the formula for success for AAUW CA. Join us at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel April 11-13 to energize our branches and our lives by attending workshops and plenary sessions. In addition, we will have the opportunity to engage with members and leaders from other branches. The air will be sizzling with notable people from the film industry including Geena Davis who, inspired by her role as a female athlete in the movie "A League of Their Own," set up a foundation to lead the battle for equity for women in the entertainment industry. See full details and get the registration forms in your *Perspective* or go to www.aauw-ca.org and click on "Convention 2014."

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire Branch Programs and Updates



Edie Kerr, Kathy Bechly and Eva Levine, LAF Vice President

"The World on Stage" Legal Advocacy Fund Event

Geri Madden, President

Wow! I just got back from this year's Legal Advocacy Fund fundraiser, "The World on Stage" and I am so impressed with the work of the indomitable Eva Levine, LAF Vice President, and her team of volunteers.

I am not much of world traveler myself, but now I feel that I've had a front row seat to a slice of culture from Mexico, Persia, India, Egypt, Cuba, Tibet, China and Turkey. The performers volunteered their time to help raise funds to help AAUW fight discrimination against women and girls in education and the workplace. The performers were top notch and accomplished in their art.

I am sure that Eva will provide you with details about the fundraising results, but in the meantime I want to tell AAUW San Jose members how fortunate we all are to have folks like Eva and her committee on our AAUW San Jose team. Thank you Eva Levine, Kathy Bechly, Nancy Eksterowicz, Mary Lou Hajduk, Monique Lee, Karla Hodgson, Jill Holdaway, Diana Pires, Edna Robison, Helen Stevens and Diane Trombetta. Also, thank you Kristen Pendleton for providing volunteers from SJSU's International House to help with the logistics.

Art Appreciation

Diana Taylor

Art Appreciation's March 12 outing will be a free tour of the San Jose State University Foundry. We will leave Headquarters at 10:30 am to carpool to the site at 1036 South 5th Street for the 11 am tour. We will learn about the process of casting bronze from beginning molds to pouring to "freeing" the cooled piece from its mold. The entire demonstration will take about 1 1/2 hours. The foundry is noisy and dirty, so very casual clothes are appropriate with comfortable walking shoes. Bring water because it can get very hot near the casting area. We will have a late lunch following the tour at a restaurant near Headquarters. The tour is limited to 18 people, so RSVP early to Diana Taylor or (408) 268-2593. RSVP deadline is March 10. Please indicate if you can drive.

Meetings/Special Events

March 3, Monday 7 pm
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Bobbie Baker

March 5, Wednesday
7 pm
Board Meeting
Geri Madden
All members welcome!

March 7, Friday
5:30-9 pm
Dinner With Lilly Ledbetter
Sainte Claire Room
Sainte Claire Hotel
Buy Tickets \$65
Diane Trombetta

March 8, Saturday 1 pm
Lilly Ledbetter Keynote speech
SJSU South Bay Women's Conference
Barrett Ballroom/Student Union
Buy Tickets
\$30 full-day conference; \$10 keynote speech only

March 18, Tuesday, 6 pm
Public Policy Committee
Jacqui Gustaferra

March 19, Wednesday
7 pm
Third Wednesday Program
Money Wise Traveling
See article
Mary Barry

March 24, Monday 9:30 am
Building and Properties
Mary Francis

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

Branch Programs and Updates

Membership Open House Monday, March 31 7-8:30 pm

Join us at Headquarters for dessert and hear what AAUW has to offer. Prospective members and current members are welcome. For more information, contact [Risë Berry](#). Please invite your friends to find out about our awesome group. Your story can be the best way to encourage a new member to join us!

Beginning Bridge Group

March 12, 19 and 26 Wednesday
10 am – noon

Beginning Bridge Class

[Nancy Valby](#)

This is a beginning bridge group that will meet with Nancy in her home. Call her for information.

January 2014 AAUW Bridge Winners

Bobbie Eckerman [Bobbie Eckerman](#)

First Monday: Bobbie Eckerman, Jackie Chase, Pat Mikolic

Second Monday: Denise Kwan, Mary Braley, Pat Mikolic

Second Thursday: Sandra Savage, Bobbie Eckerman

Second Friday: (Duplicate) Mary Clare Hopkins, Darline Wilson, Mary Fitzgerald

Third Friday: Mary Clare Hopkins, Bobbie Eckerman, Wanda Foss

Fourth Tuesday: Bobbie Eckerman, Judy Kumagai, Denise Kwan

April

Tuesday, April 8

Equal Pay Day

April 11-13

AAUW Convention

Sunday, April 13

AAUW Morgan Hill Wildflower Run

www.wildflowerrun.org

Thursday, April 16,

7–8:30 pm

Third Wednesday Program

Social Media Party

Saturday, April 26

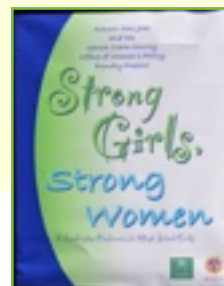
11:30 - 2 pm

AAUW San Jose Annual Meeting and Election

Sainte Claire Hotel

May

Saturday, May 3



SJSU International House Pancake Breakfast

Join the students at San Jose State University's International House for breakfast on Sunday, March 16. Students provide entertainment and serve breakfast wearing costumes from around the world. In addition to traditional American pancakes, the breakfast buffet includes apple crumble, congee/jook (Chinese rice porridge), hummus and veggies, and Peruvian potatoes in chile cheese sauce. SJSU International House is at 360 South 11th Street, San Jose www.sjsu.edu/ihouse. Breakfast is served from 9:30am to 1pm. Tickets are \$10.

March Interest Group Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all events are held at Headquarters.

Click on the underlined name of the Interest Group contact and the email address should be revealed. Or consult your Branch Directory for information. For general information about Interest Groups, contact [Sharon Bouska](#).

Weekend Walkers meets most Saturdays and Sundays at 8 am for an hour-long walk on the Los Gatos Creek Trail. To receive weekly emails about walks, contact [Jean Reed](#)

Regular registration for AAUW CA Convention 2014 is open until March 21. www.aauw-ca.org

March 3, Monday 10 am
Bridge
[Mary Clare Hopkins](#)

Dienstag 4 März um 11 Uhr bei Ruth Kerkoc
German Conversation
bei [Ruth Kerkoc](#)

March 8, Saturday
Gourmet Couples
For time and location contact: [Margaret Bard](#)

March 9, Sunday
Film Fans
For time and location contact: [Linda Snashall](#)

March 10, Monday 10 am
Bridge
[Rosemary Busch](#)

March 10, Monday 6 pm
Gourmet Light
[Barbara Bettencourt](#)
[Cheryl Markman](#)

March 11, Tuesday 10 am
Morning Book Discussion
Powers of Habit by Charles Dubigg
[Joyce Baker](#)

March 12, Wednesday 10:30 am
Art Appreciation
San Jose State University Foundry
See article for details
[Diana Taylor](#)

March 12, Wednesday 7 pm
Evening Book Discussion
Round House by Louise Erdrich
Led by Harriet Tower
[Laura Manthey](#)

March 13, Thursday 9:30 am
Great Decisions
[Maureen Curulla](#)

March 13, Thursday 2 pm
"Hands Only CPR" Class
See article
[Linda Guyer](#)

March 13, Thursday 7:15 pm
Bridge
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

March 14, Friday 10 am
Bridge
[Lida Kluzek](#)

March 17, Monday 9:30 am
Exploring World Literature
The House I Loved by Tatiana de Rosnay
Led by [Sue Eichenbaum](#)

March 17, Monday 6:30 pm
Gourmet International
Bay Area Cuisine
[Arline Veteska](#)

mardi 18 mars à 11 heures
French Conversation
chez Barbara Snyder
RSVP à [Barbara Snyder](#)

March 20, Thursday 10 am
Family History
[Barbara Van Arsdale](#)

March 20, Thursday 7 pm
Mystery Lovers
People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks
[Sharon Shephard](#)

March 21, Friday 10 am
Bridge
[Lida Kluzek](#)

March 21, Friday 6:30 pm
AAUW Singles
[Jean Wyatt](#)

March 24, Monday 6:30 pm
Gourmet Vegetarian
[Jean Wyatt](#)

March 25, Tuesday 11:30 am
Lunch Bunch
Pacific Catch in the Pruneyard
1875 S. Bascom, Campbell
RSVP by March 21
[Diana Taylor](#) 408-268-2593

March 25, Tuesday 7 pm
Great Decisions
[Jan Palajac](#)

March 25, Tuesday 7:15 pm
Bridge
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

March 26, Wednesday
10 am – noon
FRIENDS Interest Group
[Sharon Bouska](#)

March 27, Thursday 9:30 am
Great Decisions
[Maureen Curulla](#)

March 27, Thursday 7 pm
Game Night
RSVP by Monday, February 24
Sandee Plymire 408-280-5799

March 29, Saturday 9:30 am – 3 pm
Weekend Walkers
Elkhorn Slough
[Jean Reed](#)



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**PERIODICALS
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BONFIRE ARTICLE SUBMITTAL RULES:

The sole purpose of this publication is to convey the association's business to its membership. Only articles and announcements related to Branch business will be considered for inclusion.

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

AAUW San Jose Branch Annual Luncheon Meeting

Election of Officers – 2014-2015

Saturday, April 26 – 11:30 am – 2 pm

Sainte Claire Hotel, San Jose



Guest Speaker: Dr. Linda Alepin, Santa Clara University Dean's Professor of Leadership

All branch members are encouraged to attend to participate in the election of new officers. Guests are welcome to join us for lunch and to hear Dr. Alepin speak on how non-profits like AAUW can impact public policy and improve the future for women and girls everywhere.

Entrée choices

Eggplant Parmesan - with marinara sauce, mozzarella and parmesan cheese

Pennoni alla Vodka - large pasta tubes with bacon and vodka-cream tomato sauce

Petto di Pollo alla Ducale - breast of chicken with artichoke hearts and sun-dried tomatoes

Salad, rolls, coffee or tea and a dessert of tiramisu are included

Send your check for \$30 to be received no later than Saturday April 19 to:

Cheryl Markman
4982 Collomia Court
San Jose, CA 95111

Make check payable to **AAUW San Jose** and indicate your entrée choice on the check.



Empowering Women Since 1881

See the San Jose Branch Website at www.aauwsanjose.org for more information.