

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE

Empowering Women Since 1881

*AAUW San Jose and the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy****Strong Girls, Strong Women****A Leadership Conference For High School Girls*

Saturday, May 3

8 am to 1:30 pm

*Mexican Heritage Plaza**1700 Alum Rock Ave, San Jose*

Pre-registration (Free of Charge): Required at <http://www.sgs2014.eventbrite.com> or 408-299-5152. Volunteer: If you'd like the fun of helping with registration, please contact Louise. (AAUW volunteers are asked to register.)

AAUW San Jose and the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy present *Strong Girls, Strong Women*, a leadership conference for high school girls and adults. Last year the conference had more than 200 attendees and was recognized by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the California Legislature. Dynamic and interesting workshops are offered including our own Branch members presenting workshops on financial literacy and sexual harassment. Breakfast and lunch are included. (See more page 2.)

Third Wednesday Program
May 21 - 7 pm



Every 3 seconds, someone is sexually assaulted in the United States. The **Grateful Garment Project** (www.gratefulgarment.org) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing new clothes, food, grooming items, and other necessary items to victims of sexual assault. Its mission is to ensure that every victim of a sexual crime who crosses the threshold of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) facility or who seeks medical attention and/or law enforcement involvement goes home with proper clothing and is provided with items they require to reduce further trauma. New member Lisa Blanchard, founder and Executive Director of the Grateful Garment Project, will explain the program and tell us how we can help.



President's Notes

Geri Madden

Just a few words this month - but they are important. As you all know, there are many benefits to being a member of AAUW San Jose. Along with those benefits come a few responsibilities. Please help keep AAUW San Jose and AAUW-CA strong by sending in your dues and by voting.

AAUW-CA voting is open through May 2. If you have not yet voted, you only have a few days left. AAUW-CA is electing a secretary and 5 directors and is asking for a \$4 increase in State dues. Go to aauw-ca.org for instructions. The website is full of clear and helpful information. Please vote today!

Branch Membership Renewal letters have been mailed to all of our members. Please read the material carefully and send your checks BEFORE June 1 so that we can meet the reporting deadline set by AAUW National. Please renew today!



State Top-10 Award

Strong Girls, Strong Women Conference

Louise Persson

Our *Strong Girls, Strong Women* high school girls' leadership conference will be named to the Top 10 Wall of Fame for branch programs at the AAUW-CA convention. The conference focuses on equity issues faced by girls and women, empowering them to be leaders in their community.

This year's *Strong Girls, Strong Women* conference is Saturday, May 3, at the Mexican Heritage Plaza, and is co-sponsored with the Office of Women's Policy. Financial support is provided by Kaiser Permanente, PG&E, El Camino Hospital and the Commission on the Status of Women, in addition to our branch.

Strong Girls, Strong Women is a dynamic and exciting experience for students and adults. AAUW members, their families, and friends, and all high school girls are encouraged to attend. AAUW members will provide workshops on Financial Matters and Sexual Harassment at School. Separate workshops are provided for students and adults.

The conference includes a screening of the award-winning film "Miss Representation," workshops, breakfast and lunch. The conference is free, but pre-registration is required for both attendees and volunteers at <http://www.sgs2014.eventbrite.com> or 408-299-5152. Interested in volunteering? Contact me. Our members loved this fun event. You can spend an hour—or the day.

Public Policy

Public Policy Committee – Spring Into Action

Jacqui Gustaffero and Gloria Leonard, Co-Chairs Public Policy

The California 2014 legislative process is underway and AAUW CA Public Policy Committee has swung into action. With input from Legislative Advocate Shannon Smith-Crowley and AAUW CA Public Policy Director Sue Miller, legislation that we will support or oppose has been reviewed and selected for advocacy. Selection of bills to consider and support are based on member approved priorities for action according to the criteria of viability, critical need and strong member support (information gathered on biennial all-member survey).

The highest priorities according to our members for 2011-2013 are: pay equity and fairness in compensation; adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students, and choice in the determination of one's reproductive life. It is early in the process. Many bills will be amended and go through multiple committee hearings before they get approved and sent to the Governor for passage into law. The Branch Public Policy Committee is committed to informing our members about bills of interest and how they can become advocates for AAUW's mission through the California legislation. Subscribing to AAUW and AAUW CA's Action Alerts is an easy to use online advocacy tool: aauw.org/advocacy and aauw-ca.org/publicpolicy. All members are welcome to Branch Public Policy Committee meetings (see Calendar).

Financially Fit For Life

What Does the Financially Fit For Life Committee Do?

Mary Barry, Chairperson

The San Jose Branch formed a committee called Financially Fit For Life (FFFL) to educate women and girls in money management. FFFL was based on the AAUW-CA program called Money Trek developed in 2011-2012 that focused on basic financial literacy. The committee developed a shorter program that was given to the Girls Advisory Team under the auspices of the Office of Women's Policy in Santa Clara County.

Last Spring the FFFL committee presented a workshop on finances to the teenage girls at the *Strong Girls, Strong Women* conference. This program was called "Money Matters" and focused on the variety of cards that are used today including credit cards, gift cards, payroll cards, and debit cards. It was well received and will be presented again at this year's conference.

Each year our committee has also offered programs to our members, including guest speakers on Investments, Insurance, Tax Advantage giving, Elder Financial Protection, Personal Theft, and Charity giving. We hosted a Third Wednesday program for our members in March on Spending Money Wisely on Travel. In April, we presented "Money Matters and Paying for College Loans" at a Brown Bag Lunch time at Evergreen Valley College.

We are looking for additional members. Please join us on the second Monday of the month at Headquarters from 1:30 pm - 3 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Barry.

Gifts For Teens

Unique Giving Opportunity Made Easy

Elaine Benoit

Tuesday, May 6, is the date to donate online to Gifts for Teens. Using this innovative online, one-day-only, Valley-wide donation opportunity, we will raise money to fill gift bags for needy local teenagers. Starting at midnight on May 6 and continuing all day until 11:59 pm, use your credit/debit card to contribute and tap into dollar-for-dollar matching funds. Log onto <http://svgives.razoo.com/story/Gifts-For-Teens>. For mobile devices, SVGives.org and search for "teens." The best hours to score matching funds are at midnight to 1am, 7 to 9 am, noon and 5 to 8 pm. Thanks for helping GFT meet our goal.

Office Space Available

approx. 1400 sq. ft. (2nd floor) at HQ

Use: General office work

Parking available

Contact: Mary Francis at 408-921-6332

Tech Trek

**Congratulations to AAUW San Jose Branch's
Tech Trek 2014 Awardees!**

Edna Robison

Seven middle school girls with diverse backgrounds and talents will go to Tech Trek 2014 on July 6-13 at Stanford this year! Four students come from Sylvandale (Melena Huynh, Angela Rubalcava, Jessica Luong, Elizabeth Chu), two from Peter Burnett (Meghan Schroeder, Diana Flores), and one from John Muir (Valerie Lima). Each girl experienced what it's like to complete an application form, write an essay on "How Math and/or Science Will Improve Their Quality of Life," and answer interview questions from a panel of evaluators.

All awardees will attend the orientation during the "Ice Cream Social" (orientation day), sponsored by the Inter-Branch Council (IBC) of Santa Clara County. Housing is still being determined, but we are proud to announce that Elaine Benoit and Jane Guinther will be "dorm moms" again this year! Our Branch will fund \$900 per student or a total of \$6,300, and each girl will pay \$50 as a "good faith" promise that they will attend.

Many thanks to our panel of evaluators: Elaine Benoit, Jane Guinther, Cheryl Markman, Sharon Niedermaier (a community volunteer), and Edna Robison! Thank you also to all those who donated money to Tech Trek!

Branch Programs and Updates



It Is Time To Renew!

Risë Berry, Membership Co-VP



By now you have received your **Membership Renewal Forms** in the mail. We hope the changes made to the forms clarify and simplify the renewal process for you. The dues breakdown is: AAUW National (\$49 for most regular, single-branch members), AAUW-CA (\$16), San Jose Branch (\$25 + \$1 to AAUW Funds) to total \$91. When writing your dues check, please consider "rounding up" to \$100 by adding \$9 on the "Undesignated Donations" line. Though this amount may seem small it amounts to a significant percentage of our budget. This is an easy way to ensure that the Branch has adequate funds to continue its many excellent programs.

Please renew your membership for 2014-15 today. If you have any questions or comments regarding the renewal process please get in touch with anyone on the Membership Team. THANK YOU for renewing BEFORE JUNE 1.

From your Membership Vice Presidents: Linda Goldberg, Gay Gale, Risë Berry, Sharon Shephard

Fall Event

Planning Ahead

Membership Co-VP Linda Goldberg

It's spring, so of course it is time to think about...Fall Event! Volunteers are needed for Fall Event scheduled for September 13. There will be one or two organizing meetings – one in late June or early July, and another if needed in August. Please let me know if you would be willing to help with any of the following:

- Food Chair – arranges donations of food from members and paper goods
- Kitchen Chair – sets table, puts food and beverages out, clean up after (4-6 members)
- Decorations Chair – provides centerpiece for food table and balloons for entryways
- Invitations Chair – Send invitations to Past Presidents and 50 Year Members
- Volunteer Chair – Coordinates volunteers on the day of the event
(4-6 volunteers to work as greeters and at check in tables)

"The World On Stage" Event Results

Eva Levine, VP LAF

"The World On Stage" was held on Saturday, February 15 at the Le Petit Trianon Theatre in San Jose to benefit AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Including the audience, performers, members and volunteers, well over 200 people attended raising \$6,771 for LAF. LAF combats sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace by supporting legal cases that have the potential to make a difference to all women.

A post-event evaluation was conducted using an emailed questionnaire. There was unanimous support for similar events in the future indicating that events such as "The World On Stage" may be viable as a fundraising vehicle going forward.

In the news...

Member Ellen DiBiasi, our College/University Relations representative for Evergreen Valley College, has been appointed to the San Jose Evergreen City College District Council on the Status of Women. The Council is a joint effort between City College and Evergreen Valley College to reduce the number of gender-based crimes on campus and ensure that campus policies reinforce a culture of safety and respect. Congratulations!



We need a few good women to help sell ads for the 2014-15 Directory. As you know it is updated in time for Fall Event, and we depend on advertisements to cover the printing costs. There is a short application form to give to local merchants, who can sign up on the spot or receive a follow up phone call from you about a week later. Many merchants renew their ads year after year and are not "hard sells." Individuals can also purchase ad space, so you can sell to friends. Please let Diane Trombetta know you can help. Thank you! (BTW, this assignment gives you a great excuse to go shopping!)

Membership Matters

AAUW San Jose Welcomes New Members

Claire Campodonico

JANE-PARKS McKAY attended SJSU and Cabrillo College prior to being awarded her AA in General Education from West Valley College. She owned her own school and taught there for twenty-one years. She taught self-esteem to teenage girls and published “The Make-Over, A Teen’s Guide to Looking and Feeling Beautiful” (William Murrow, 1985). As a re-entry student, Jane earned her BA in Community Studies from UC Santa Cruz with a concentration in pre-law in 1992. Retiring from teaching, she founded a PR company in the hospitality industry. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in features for a paper she wrote on PTSD after 9/11. Jane was referred by Marcia Capella. She and her family live in Capitola.

CARMEN ACKMANN began college as a re-entry student at SJSU where she earned her BA and MA in Special Education. Continuing at the University of San Francisco, she received her Doctorate in Organization and Leadership. Her career was in the Berryessa School District as a speech therapist. Before retiring, she transferred into their Administrative Department. Proud to be eighty-seven years of age, Carmen stays active playing Par 3 golf and Bocce Ball.

LEANN CHERKASKY MAKHNI, a native New Yorker, received her BA in Political Science from the University of Michigan. Moving to California, she earned her MA from the Monterey Institute of International Policy Studies. Leann has worked as the Director of SJSU’s International House for the past twenty-three years and would like to give credit to members Kristen Pendleton, Helen Stevens and Diane Trombetta for their encouragement in her decision to join our Branch.

MARIE WELBORN is a native New Yorker. She noticed our Headquarters building, being a patron of the library next door. Marie received her BS in Social Work from Cornell University. She went on to earn her Masters in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She first worked in New Haven, CT as a social worker and later returned to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to work at the University Counseling Service. After receiving her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Minnesota, she relocated to California where she worked as a clinical psychologist in the Child Development Department of California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. Marie presently has a Willow Glen office where she provides psychotherapy as well as college and career counseling.

ROSEMARY (TERRY) MCCOY was born in San Francisco. She attended SJSU where she earned her BA in Sociology with a minor in Psychology. For thirty-two years she was employed by Pacific Telephone (now AT&T). She retired but soon became bored so she went to work in the mortgage industry for the next ten years. She is currently looking for part-time work. She enjoys spending quality time with her three sons. Mary Ann Carnevale referred Terry to our Branch.

SUE COVEY grew up as a Coast Guard “brat” living in Guam, Florida and Alaska. She received her BA in Art History from UC Santa Barbara. For the next twenty years, she worked in advertising, public relations and broadcasting in Los Angeles. Switching to the non-profit world, she has been employed by several firms over the past thirty years, most recently at the University of Santa Clara in University Advancement (Development). Planning for her retirement in a few years, Sue knew AAUW by reputation and has plans to become much more active.

LAUREN LEE-JOHNSON, Regional Director of Elwyn California, has skills and expertise in the areas of not-for-profit organizational and interpersonal management as well as in advocacy for the disabled and socially disenfranchised. Originally from the Boston area, Lauren received her BA in Texas and her Masters in Psychology from Golden Gate University. For eight years, she was employed as a Development Center Liaison for San Andreas Regional Center working on the Agnews Development Center closure project and Community Placement Plan unit. Elwyn is a premier human services provider. She learned of AAUW on a blog.

TERRI ANDERSON joined our Branch “to volunteer for women’s and girl’s equity.” She graduated from SJSU in 1980 with a BS in Civil Engineering. She spent her career of over thirty-two years at the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Terri retired in 2013 from her position as Water Operations Planning Manager. Terri’s mother has spoken highly of AAUW and now Terri has the time to join and participate.

MICHELE FOSTER has renewed her membership after a break of two years. Welcome back to our Branch, Michelle.

DARLENE SMYTH, a native of Connecticut, earned her BA in English from the University of Connecticut. After receiving her Secondary Teaching Credential, she taught 7th through 12th grades. She was referred by one of her daughters. Now retired from substitute teaching, Darlene is very interested in Sports Equity since her daughter is the Head Coach of Stanford’s women’s gymnastics.

Welcome

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

Branch Programs and Updates

Stairway Walks of San Francisco

Dolores Heights and the Mission

Jane Guinther, Weekend Walkers

Come join me on Saturday, May 17 as we search out the hidden stairways, history, charming homes and neighborhoods with split streets on Dolores Heights. The spring flora should be in full bloom. The first and steepest climb provides spectacular views of San Francisco, the Bay, hillsides, and neighborhoods.

We'll meet at Headquarters for a 9 am departure. Our walk ends near Dolores Park where we'll have a picnic lunch. Topped off with ice cream from Bi Rite Creamery we'll walk several blocks to Mission Dolores for a tour before we depart for San Jose. We should arrive at Headquarters between 4-5 pm. Bring a bag lunch and comfortable walking shoes. RSVP so we can arrange carpools.

March 2014 AAUW BRIDGE WINNERS

Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Judy Kumagai, Denise Kwan, Bobbie Eckerman

Second Monday: Rosemary Busch, Leela Viswanathan,
Mary Braley

Second Thursday: Darline Wilson, Judy Hart

Second Friday: (Duplicate) Mary Fitzgerald, Mary Clare
Hopkins, Judy Kumagai

Third Friday: Mary Fitzgerald, Lida Kluzek, Mary Clare
Hopkins

Art Appreciation

Geri Madden

Come join us for a unique afternoon and trip into the past. Art Appreciation is going to the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum on Wednesday, May 14. The two-hour tour will be from 10 am to noon.

The Special Group Tour Package costs \$12 and includes: A brief history of Niles and the Niles Essanay Film Company. A tour of the c.1913 Edison Theater and Museum. Showing of made-in-Niles silent film shorts with Gilbert M. "Broncho Billy" Anderson and comedy legend Charlie Chaplin. Walking tour of historic sites in Niles (about a 4-block area.)

Following the tour there will be time for lunch and antique store browsing. There are a number of restaurants in the area. If you want to enhance the nostalgia of the day, we can lunch at Tyme for Tea (www.tymeforteate.com) enjoying scones with creme fraiche, lemon curd and raspberry preserves, assorted tea sandwiches, and your choice of tea. That cost is \$23 and requires reservations for at least 8 people. There are many other restaurants in the area. We will carpool, leaving Headquarters at 9:10 and expect to be back between 2:45 and 3:15 pm. Please RSVP to Geri Madden by Sunday, May 4 at 408-923-6068. Please let me know what your lunch preferences are so that I can plan accordingly.

Meetings and Special Events

May 3 Saturday, 8 am – 1:30 pm

Strong Girls, Strong Women Conference

See front page
Louise Persson

May 5, Monday 6:30 pm

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Bobbie Baker

May 6, Tuesday

12 am to 11:59 pm

Gifts for Teens, Silicon Valley Gives

Log on: [http://svgives.razoo.com/
story/Gifts-For-Teens](http://svgives.razoo.com/story/Gifts-For-Teens)

Elaine Benoit

May 7, Wednesday 7 pm

Board Meeting

Geri Madden

May 12, Monday 1:30 pm

Financially Fit For Life

Mary Barry

May 20, Tuesday 6 pm

Public Policy Committee

Gloria Leonard

May 21, Wednesday 7 pm

Third Wednesday Program

Grateful Garments

See front page

Lisa Blanchard, Marilyn Jackson

June 2, Monday 9:30 am

Building and Properties Committee

Mary Francis

May 28 Wednesday

7-8:30 pm

Open House

Risë Berry

June 4, Wednesday

6 pm Social, 7 pm Meeting

Joint Board Meeting

J Lohr Vineyards & Wines

1000 Lenzen Avenue, San Jose

**Please send \$30 check
payable to AAUW San Jose**

c/o Cheryl Markman

4982 Collomia Ct,

San Jose 95111

(408) 578-8315

RSVP Deadline - May 20



May 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](#)

May 5, Monday 10 am
Bridge
[Mary Clare Hopkins](#)

Dienstag 6 Mai um 11 Uhr
German Conversation
Bei Barbara Snyder
RSVP a [Barbara Snyder](#)

May 8, Thursday 9:30 am
Great Decisions
[Maureen Curulla](#)

May 9, Friday 10 am
Bridge
[Lida Kluzek](#)

May 10, Saturday
Gourmet Couples
For time and location contact:
[Margaret Bard](#)

May 11, Sunday
Mother's Day
No **Film Fans** this month
[Linda Snashall](#)

May 12, Monday 10 am
Bridge
[Rosemary Busch](#)

May 12, Monday 6 pm
Gourmet Light
[Barbara Bettencourt](#)
[Cheryl Markman](#)

May 13, Tuesday 10 am
Morning Book Discussion
Silicon Valley Reads
The Shallows by Nicholas Carr
Mr. Penumbra's 24 Hour Bookstore
by Robin Sloan
[Joyce Baker](#)

May 14, Wednesday 7 pm
Evening Book Discussion
Safari Jema by Teresa O'Kane
[Marilyn Jackson](#)

May 14, Wednesday 9:10 am
(The tour is from 10-12, but we are meeting at hdqrs at 9:10)
Art Appreciation
Niles Essanay
Silent Film Museum Tour
See article
[Geri Madden](#)

May 15, Thursday 10 am
Family History
[Barbara Van Arsdale](#)

May 15, Thursday 7 pm
Mystery Lovers
[Sharon Shephard](#)

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

May 16, Friday 10 am
Bridge
[Lida Kluzek](#)

May 16, Friday 6:30 pm
AAUW Singles
[Jean Wyatt](#)

May 17, Saturday 9 – 4 pm
Weekend Walkers
San Francisco Stairway Walk
See article
[Jane Guinther](#)

May 19, Monday 9:30 am
Exploring World Literature
Three Strong Women by Marie NDiaye
Presented by Mary Barry
[Lucy Poindexter](#)
[Sue Eichenbaum](#)

May 19, Monday 6:30 pm
Gourmet International
Dessert & Planning for next year
[Arline Veteska](#)

Mardi 20 Mai à 11 heures
French Conversation
Chez Susan Hood
RSVP à
[Susan Hood](#)

May 22, Thursday 7 pm
Game Night
RSVP by Monday, May 19
Sandee Plymire 408-280-5799

May 26, Monday 6:30 pm
Gourmet Vegetarian
Jean Wyatt
[Jean Wyatt](#)

May 27, Tuesday 7 pm
Great Decisions
[Jan Palajac](#)

May 27, Tuesday 7:15 pm
Bridge
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

May 27, Tuesday 11:30
Lunch Bunch
Tomato Thyme
1560 Hamilton Ave. SJ
RSVP by May 23
[Diana Taylor](#)

May 28, Wednesday 10 am - noon
Friends "Game Day"
Bring a favorite game to play
[Sharon Bouska](#)

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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

Membership Open House

Wednesday, May 28
7-8:30 pm

Join us at Headquarters Wednesday, May 28 from 7-8:30 pm. We'll share dessert and what we love about AAUW. 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!



Empowering Women Since 1881

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