

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE

Empowering Women Since 1881

2014-2015 Elected Officers

Co-Presidents

Geri Madden
Diane Trombetta

President-Elect

OPEN - no candidate

Program Vice President

Peg Carlson-Bowen

AAUW Funds Vice President

Sharon Shephard

AAUW Funds/Legal Advocacy**Fund Vice President**

Ellen DiBiase

Finance Officer

Pat Diamond

Treasurer

Anne Wustrow

Secretary

Elaine McMahon

**Membership Co-Vice
President/Committee**

Linda Goldberg, Kathy Myers,
Marty Glanzman, Nanci
Eksterowicz

**Building and Properties
Committee**

Susan Dietz, Susan Brundage,
Linda Guyer, Janice Robbins,
Barbara Van Arsdale, Pat Brie,
Linda Holbrook, Laura Manthey

Board members in appointed
positions will be announced at a
later date.

*Soirée - an evening party or social gathering,
especially one held for a specific purpose*

June 2 - 7 pm

Members of Neighbors Helping Neighbors invite you to an end-of-the-year Soirée on Monday June 2 at 7 pm, the last regular meeting of our Branch's very active, continuing Community Action Project. Both **The Grateful Garment Project** and **Santa Maria's School Backpack** projects will be highlighted during the evening. NHN will provide wine, soft drinks and appetizers. Curious about Neighbors Helping Neighbors? Looking for a way to help? Come to the party!

Donations will be appreciated for both projects.

SMUM School Backpack Project

Supplies needed
to fill backpacks of school supplies for
students in grades K-12.

Binder Paper (various sizes)
Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, Erasers,
12 inch rulers
Pocket folders (no blue or red)
Glue sticks
Crayola Markers 10 Pack, Classic
Colors
Notebooks (no blue or red)
Crayons 24 pack
Pens-black ink
Calculators
Colored Pencils
Scissors

Grateful Garment Project

New items needed for victims
of sexual assault.

sports bras
sweatshirts
underwear, small or medium
postage stamps



Questions? Contact NHN Co-Chairs [Bobbie Baker](#) or [Pat Diamond](#)



President's Notes

Geri Madden

I had the distinct pleasure in April of representing the San Jose Branch at the 92nd State Convention in Los Angeles. AAUW-CA did an admirable job putting on a meaningful and informative convention. The theme was "E3 = Engage, Educate, Empower"; it did all three.

Some highpoints for me included: meeting with incoming AAUW-CA President Kathleen Doty and later with California State Senator Holly Mitchell; a wonderful, inspiring and humorous review of her two year term from AAUW-CA President Alicia Hetman; the National perspective, warmth and enthusiasm of AAUW President Patricia Fae Ho; Public Policy Breakfast with AAUW-CA Legislative Advocate, Shannon Smith-Crowley; and talks by Linda Alepin, Santa Clara University professor, founder of the Global Women's Leadership Network and recipient of AAUW's 2013 Eleanor Roosevelt Award and Madeline Di Nonno, CEO of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media.

I also attended two workshops: "AAUW Funds: Get the Facts" at which our own Louise Persson was an impressive member of the panel and "Member Retention Strategies = Empowering Branches." As you can see, it was a very busy

couple of days. There were so many great workshops, it was really hard to choose. I came home with some wonderful ideas and new tools and look forward to sharing them with our Branch as we move into the 2014-2015 year. I also met many great and enthusiastic members from our sister branches. I know that those contacts will serve the Branch well in the coming months. I can tell you that the San Jose Branch has an excellent reputation among our sister branches. That is due to the great leadership and hard work that all of you have given to AAUW over the years.

This year, San Jose's "Strong Girls/Strong Women" program received very special recognition at the Convention when it was named to the Wall of Fame for the top ten California programs. Congratulations and thank you to Louise Persson, Beverly Bassett and all of those in the Branch who supported and participated in this outstanding program. There were some 200 in attendance and a very nice write-up in the Mercury News the following day.

Thank you all so very much for giving me this opportunity to represent you. Please think about taking the next opportunity to attend a convention. I can guarantee that it will be fun and worthwhile. The 2015 AAUW National Convention will be conveniently in San Diego on June 18 - 21, 2015. Start making your plans now!

Public Policy

Advocating for Policies that Advance Equity for Women and Girls in California

Jacqui Gustaferra and Gloria Leonard, Co-Chairs, Public Policy Committee

California legislators are currently studying and voting on bills that advance AAUW's mission in our state. A few of the approximately 30 bills that AAUW CA has selected for support positions were highlighted at the recent AAUW-CA Convention:

*AB 2350 – Bonila, S. – Post-secondary education: Equity in Higher Education Act: Prevention of Pregnancy Discrimination.

Subject: Author Susan Bonila states: "AB 2350 seeks to increase the number of women in STEM fields by raising awareness that pregnancy discrimination is included in the federal Title IX standards."

*SB 477 – Steinberg, D. - Foreign Labor Contractor: Registration

Subject: Improving regulation of foreign labor contractors to prevent illegal trafficking of foreign workers.

*SB 899 - Mitchell, H. - CalWORKS: Eligibility (14 other legislators have "signed on" to the bill.)

Subject: Amends regulations used to determine a family's maximum aid payment.

San Jose Branch members can find out more about these and other bills by going to www.aauw-ca.org/PublicPolicy and follow instructions for bill tracking. Sign up for Action Alerts at the same website so that you can be an advocate when we need to contact our legislators. The Public Policy bulletin board at Headquarters will have postings about current legislation or you can contact the Public Policy Committee.



Annual Meeting Report

Diane Trombetta, Co-President-Elect

The Annual Meeting and election of officers was an inspiring and lively event. Those in attendance included two AAUW CA Directors, Virginia Beck and Harriet Tower (both Branch members), guests from the Morgan Hill Branch and a student from Santa Clara University. Our speaker Linda Alepin inspired us to reach across generational barriers and connect with millennial women, who she says are highly skilled, want to belong to a community, and are ready to commit themselves to a worthy cause. Participants filled out a brief survey at the end of the meeting giving the program high marks and making suggestions for improving our Branch's recruitment of younger members. We elected the new slate of officers and paid tribute to our two Named Gift Honorees for 2013-14, Edna Robison and Pat Diamond. If you were there, I don't need to tell you what a productive and fun meeting this was; if you weren't, there is a DVD available for you to borrow thanks to a generous friend of AAUW and volunteer videographer, Mr. Jimmy Wong.

Named Gift Honorees

AAUW's "Named Gift Honoree" program provides branches with a great opportunity to honor members for their contributions to the mission of AAUW. This year AAUW San Jose honored two of our members. Congratulations to this year's designees:

Pat Diamond is being recognized for her consistent dedication to AAUW's mission and for freely serving the Branch with her computer and financial expertise. Pat currently serves on the Finance Committee and as co-chair of Neighbors Helping Neighbors and will be Finance Chair for 2014-2015. When we had to invest in a new computer, Pat and her husband Bob were invaluable in helping our Office Manager Judy Burt with the decision to purchase a new computer, what computer to buy, as well as installing it and all of its components. Recently Pat also took charge of moving the printer to the sun porch, which has freed the main desk and greatly improved our ability to take care of Branch business.

Edna Robison is being recognized because of her generosity to our Branch and because of her dedication to every aspect of the Branch's programs and operations. Edna has served in many Branch positions including Branch Secretary, President, and Program VP. She is incoming Parliamentarian. In addition to these positions, Edna is a dedicated member and Chair of Tech Trek. Edna has also volunteered many hours to the preparation and organization of Branch activities and to photographing Branch events. She has generously donated a beautiful wide-screen television and a refrigerator to the Branch. Not only does Edna never say "no"; she always says "yes" with a smile.

Regional and National Summits on Working Families

AAUW is Invited

Jacqui Gustaferra and Gloria Leonard,
Co-Chairs, Public Policy Committee

On June 23, President Barack Obama will convene the White House Summit on Working Families in Washington, D.C. to focus on modernizing workplace policies for America's future economic success. AAUW will be in attendance, calling for long-overdue updates to our nation's workplace policies.

As economic opportunities for women have increased, not all of our laws have kept up — wage discrimination persists, and most employees still lack care-giving or sick leave. As Obama noted in his 2014 State of the Union address, our policies are stuck in the *Mad Men* era. The summit will concentrate the national conversation on equal pay, workplace discrimination, paid leave, paid sick days, and care-giving challenges. If you plan to be in Washington in June and want to attend the Summit, AAUW will coordinate registration and attendance. Learn more on AAUW's blog: <http://www.aauw.org/event/2014/04/white-house-summit-on-working-families/>

The U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau hosted a regional Working Families Summit in San Francisco on May 27. The summit brought together businesses, issue experts, lawmakers, and advocates to discuss the issues facing working families. As information gathered at the summit becomes available, it will be reported by San Jose Public Policy Committee in the BONFIRE and on the bulletin board at Headquarters.

Branch Programs and Updates

Local Scholarship Awards

Cheryl Markman

Thanks to the generosity of AAUW members, AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship was able to grant \$29,500 in scholarships to 12 very deserving women. Members of the committee screened 39 written applications and selected 18 of the applicants to be interviewed. Ultimately we awarded one scholarship of \$4000 in honor of past committee chair Edie Kerr; five scholarships of \$3000 each; three scholarships of \$2000 each; and three scholarships of \$1500 each.

Thanks again to all of our donors and to all of you who support our Holiday Boutique! Without you we would not be able to help make this difference in the lives of so many bright and talented young women.

SVGives a Huge Success for Gifts for Teens

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

Drum roll please! SVGives, the Silicon Valley “day of giving” on May 6, was a great success for Gifts for Teens. As one of the many local non-profit charities registered to receive donations, a sum of \$7,375 dollars was collected for Gifts for Teens. Thank you to all who generously donated and selected Gifts for Teens as a recipient. You have made a difference in the lives of many homeless and low-income teens in the Bay area.

College/University Relations Committee (C/URC)

Helen Stevens

Fourteen graduate and undergraduate students attended the \$TART \$MART Workshop at Santa Clara University on Saturday, May 10. Workshop sponsors included AAUW-SJ, Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy, the WAGE Project, and Santa Clara University's WOMEN IN BUSINESS Graduate and Undergraduate Clubs. Facilitators were Elena Noble and Wendy Levine, both from AAUW-CA, with assistance from Linda Alepin SCU Professor and faculty contact for C/URC who spoke at our annual meeting in April. AAUW-SJ was represented by members Edna Robison and Helen Stevens. Although most students attending were from SCU, SJSU and Yale University were also represented.

STEM Experts Are Role Models for Tech Excellence Girls

What do the resource persons for Tech Excellence have in common? Expertise, long-standing careers, and a willingness to help middle school girls see how STEM improves our quality of life.

For Captain **Andrea Connell**, a 25-year United Airlines pilot, 2014 marked her 11th year of teaching the “Four Forces of Flight” (lift, thrust, drag, gravity) class to our seventh grade girls.

Dr. **Marilyn Pachorek**, a veterinarian at Los Gatos Dog and Cat Hospital, has been teaching for over 15 years, bringing other vets, a nurse, and dogs to the class adding zest to the program. Our girls learn how to don scrubs, perform physical exams on dogs, hear about animal diseases, identify animals' bones, and read x-rays.

Dr. **June McCullough**, SJSU Professor of Communicative Disorders and Past President of the California Academy of Audiology, has completed her second year of teaching our girls. Eight graduate students assisted her in giving free hearing tests and facilitating the stations.

Dr. **Lee Hornberger**, a retired mechanical engineer, taught at Santa Clara University and worked at Apple and other large corporations. For two years in a row, she volunteered to teach the class on “Chemistry Engineering: Polymer/GAK.”

Many thanks to our resource speakers and our volunteers/facilitators – Terri Anderson, Elaine Benoit, Sharon Burkett, Jane Guinther, Linda Guyer, Nancy Hooton, Jennifer Jackson, Kathy Mangan, Cheryl Markman, Sharon Niedermaier (community volunteer), and Edna Robison. Thank you also to all those who donated money to Tech Excellence! Special thanks go to the John Muir Middle School administration, especially their school secretary Dawn Heinzmann and the San Jose Unified School District for allowing the classes to be held onsite and arranging the field trips.

For more information on how to become involved in helping keep young girls interested in **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**, please contact me or Nancy Hooton. Nancy has agreed to be the next Tech Excellence Chair. Nancy is a retired teacher from the San Jose Unified School District. She now finds joy in volunteering her time to make a difference in the lives of middle school girls. Join us on June 21 if you wish to participate in planning for next year's curriculum/schedule.

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

Branch Programs and Updates

Membership Matters

AAUW San Jose Welcomes New Members

Claire Campodonico

LISA BLANCHARD earned her BS in Human Services from Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont. She continued her studies at USF, receiving her MS in Non-Profit Administration. Lisa has been an AAUW member-at-large since her college days. Now she has joined our Branch. For her Capstone project at Notre Dame, Lisa founded the **Grateful Garment Project** which is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing new clothes and other items to victims of sexual assault.

JOYCE HOLLEMAN is originally from the east coast. She moved to California in 2007. She received her Nursing license from Methodist School of Nursing in Philadelphia. She continued her studies at Trinity College in Washington, D.C., earning her BA in Human Relations. She is Senior Director of Patient Services at Hospice of the Valley in San Jose. Joyce looks forward to retiring in August, but will continue to volunteer at Hospice. Member Joan Meyer referred her to our Branch.

PAMELA JAJKO resides in Cupertino. She was introduced to our Branch by Marcia Capella and Margaret McCartney. She is looking forward to participating in Couples Gourmet, Lunch Bunch and Exploring World Literature.

NANCY TOLEDO started her education at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. After a hiatus to start her family, she attended St. Mary's College in Moraga to complete her BA in Public Administration. Nancy's career was in the public sector working in the areas of financial and budget analysis and later in Marketing/Customer Service. Her last job before retiring was as Customer Service Manager for the VTA. She was referred by Linda Lloyd.

SUSANNE DOTY earned her BA in Psychology from Wells College in Aurora, New York. She continued her studies at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, receiving an MBA in Marketing and International Business. She is the president of the Association of California Commissions for Women and a commissioner on the Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women. She is actively pursuing employment in a non-profit organizational position.

ELIN BOLT attended Morningside College in Sioux City, IA where she earned her BA in Music Education. She continued on to attend the University of Wisconsin at Madison where she studied in their Library Science master's degree program. Elin's career has primarily been as a legal secretary, both in Madison and Palo Alto. Having been a part of a massive layoff in 2013, she is taking some time off to regroup. Elin's favorite pastimes are musical and theatrical events.

Thank you Claire Campodonico for contacting our new members and writing their bios for the BONFIRE.



Give A Grad A Gift

Graduation time is almost upon us and many of you know family members or friends with graduating seniors. Now is the perfect time to take advantage of AAUW's **Give a Grad a Gift** program. It grants the graduating student one year of AAUW National Membership free of charge as well as a year of CA State membership. All you have to do is nominate the graduate by completing this form: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>.



2014-1015

Dues are due

If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership as soon as possible and consider "rounding up" – round-up contributions account for over 10% of our budget.



June 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.

June 2, Monday 10 am
Bridge
[Mary Clare Hopkins](#)

Dienstag 3 Juni um 11 Uhr
German Conversation
bei Christiane Chadda
RSVP an [Christiane Chadda](#)

June 5, Thursday 10 am
Family History
Planning Meeting & Potluck
[Susan Brundage](#)

June 6, Friday 12 noon
Local Scholarship
Committee Luncheon
[Grace O'Leary](#)

June 8, Sunday
Film Fans
For time & location, contact:
[Linda Snashall](#)

June 9, Monday 10 am
Bridge
[Rosemary Busch](#)

June 9, Monday 6 pm
Gourmet Light
[Barbara Bettencourt](#)
[Cheryl Markman](#)

June 11, Wednesday from 8:45 am
Art Appreciation
Murals of Mission District Tour
San Francisco
[Margaret Bard](#)

June 11, Wednesday 7 pm
Evening Book Group
Silicon Valley Reads
The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains
Mr. Penumbra's 24 Hour Bookstore
[Laura Manthey](#)

June 12, Thursday
Family History
Year-end potluck & planning
For details, contact:
[Barbara VanArsdale](#)

June 12, Thursday 7:15 pm
Bridge
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

June 13, Friday 10 am
Bridge
[Lida Kluzek](#)

June 14, Saturday
Weekend Walkers
"Shakespeare in the Park"
[Jean Reed](#)

June 14, Saturday
Gourmet Couples
For time & location, contact:
[Margaret Bard](#)

June 16, Monday 9:30 am
Exploring World Literature
Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barberry
Presented by Geri Riordan
Year end luncheon
[Lucy Poindexter](#)
[Sue Eichenbaum](#)

mardi 17 juin à 11 heures
French Conversation
chez Monique Lee
RSVP à [Monique Lee](#)

June 19, Thursday 7 pm
Mystery Lovers
[Sharon Shephard](#)

June 19, Thursday 7:15 pm
Bridge
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

June 20, Friday 10 am
Bridge
[Lida Kluzek](#)

June 20, Friday 6:30 pm
AAUW Singles
[Jean Wyatt](#)

June 21, Saturday, 9:30-11 am
New Member Brunch
[Risë Berry](#)

June 23, Monday 6:30 pm
Gourmet Vegetarian
[Jean Wyatt](#)

June 24, Tuesday 11:30 am
Lunch Bunch
11:30 Nick's Next Door
11 College Avenue
Los Gatos
[Diana Taylor](#)

June 24, Tuesday 7 pm
Great Decisions
[Jan Palajac](#)

June 24, Tuesday 7:15 pm
Bridge
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

June 26, Thursday 7pm
Game Night
RSVP by Monday, June 23
Sandee Plymire 408-280-5799

Special Meeting

June 4, Wednesday 7 pm
Joint Board Meeting
J Lohr Vineyards & Wines
1000 Lenzen Avenue, San Jose
[Geri Madden](#)

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

Branch Programs and Updates

Art Appreciation Mural Walk in San Francisco's Mission District Margaret Bard, Art Appreciation



July Calendar

Art Appreciation is going to the Mission District of San Francisco for a Mural Walk on June 11. Our guide will be a Precita Eyes Muralist who will walk with us and offer commentary on the murals. There will be an introductory slide presentation about the history of muralism as well as a very broad look at contemporary murals and the artists who create them. The cost for the tour is \$12 per person. Please join us! We'll meet at Headquarters at 8:45 to carpool. The walk will be two or three hours so wear comfortable shoes. We'll have lunch in a Mexican eatery before returning home. For more information please contact Margaret Bard.

For Rent

The lease on our second floor offices ends August 31 and the tenant is moving out. That rental income pays for all the operating expenses (taxes, PG&E, insurance, repairs, etc.) of our Headquarters and grounds. The Leasing Committee is looking for a new tenant. If you know of anyone who might be interested (nice space, 1,000+ sq feet plus tons of storage area), please contact Mary Francis.

April 2014 AAUW BRIDGE WINNERS Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Margery Epperson, Bobbie Eckerman, Pat Mikolic

Second Monday: Bobbie Eckerman, Denise Kwan, Pat Mikolic

Second Thursday: Cancelled

Second Friday (Duplicate): Jean Kudlick, Mary Fitzgerald, Bobbie Eckerman

Third Friday: Bobbie Eckerman, Lida Kluzek

Fourth Tuesday: Virginia Beck, Darline Wilson

Vacation Getaway Winners!

Congratulations to the winners of the Local Scholarship Vacation Getaway donation drawings which raised over \$2,500 for Local Scholarship. Judy Ohland won the Donner Lake Tahoe trip and Sue Dietz won the Santa Cruz Harbor trip. Have fun ladies!!

Dienstag 1 Juli um 11 Uhr
German Conversation
bei Christiane Chadda
RSVP an Christiane Chadda

July 6, Sunday
Film Fans
For time & location, contact:
Linda Snashall

July 7, Monday 10 am
Bridge
Mary Clare Hopkins

July 9, Wednesday 8:45 am
"Intimate Impressions"
Legion of Honor, San Francisco
Meet at HQ to carpool
Maggie Benson

July 10, Thursday 7:15 pm
Bridge
Bobbie Eckerman

July 11, Friday 10 am
Bridge
Lida Kluzek

July 12, Saturday 8 am – noon
Weekend Walkers
at Villa Montalvo
Jean Reed

July 12, Saturday
Gourmet Couples
For time & location, contact:
Margaret Bard

July 14, Monday 10 am
Bridge
Rosemary Busch

July 14, Monday 6 pm
Gourmet Light
Barbara Bettencourt
Cheryl Markman

mardi 15 Juli à 11 heures
French Conversation
chez Monique Lee
RSVP à Monique Lee

July 18, Friday 10 am
Bridge
Lida Kluzek

July 18, Friday 6:30 pm
AAUW Singles
Jean Wyatt

July 22, Tuesday 11:30 am
Lunch Bunch
Sweet Mango
1040 Willow Street, San Jose
RSVP by July 18
Nancy Patterson or 408-299-0546

July 22, Tuesday 7 pm
Great Decisions
Jan Palajac

July 22, Tuesday 7:15 pm
Bridge
Bobbie Eckerman

July 24, Thursday 7 pm
Game Night
RSVP by Monday July 21
Sandee Plymire
408-280-5799

July 28, Monday 6:30 pm
Gourmet Vegetarian
Jean Wyatt

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**PERIODICALS
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Gay Gale, Linda Goldberg

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Editorial Staff: Judy Kristofferson, Linda Rowlett,
Marilyn Jackson

Distribution: Alma Powell, Linda Lloyd

Change of Address: Linda Lloyd

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



Summer Solstice Brunch

All new members are invited to join the Membership Team for Brunch.

Date: June 21, Saturday

Time: 9:30 – 11 am

Place: Headquarters

RSVP to – Risë Berry

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Save the date: Fall Event, September 13



Empowering Women Since 1881

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