

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE



Empowering Women Since 1881

Fall Event

September 13, 2014

Registration 9:30am - 10:00am

Program 10:00am - 11:30am

Brunch and Browse Displays 11:30am - 1:00pm*

Why We Joined - Why We Stay

Welcome prospective members, new members, long-time members

- Learn how you have made a difference in the lives of women and girls in 2013-14
- Learn more about the new Branch Strategic Plan
- Meet your Board of Directors
- Hear stories of women whose lives have been changed by their membership in AAUW San Jose
- Meet Tech Trek campers and Local Scholarship recipients
- Honor our named Gift Honorees, Past Presidents, and 50-year members
- Pick up your newly-revised Branch Handbook and Directory

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through
advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose, CA 95123
(The corner of Hamilton & Leigh)

***NOTE: Brunch will be served AFTER the program**



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President's Notes

Diane Trombetta

Fall Event has evolved from a "community open house" and member-recruitment event to what it is today: a celebration of our Branch's accomplishments for women and girls designed to inspire us to even greater achievements in the months and years to come. Our lively open houses attract new members throughout the year, while at Fall Event we review the past year and initiate the new. This year's program in particular will remind us of why we joined AAUW and why we continue to renew our Branch membership and commitment to gender equity and education. You'll enjoy a slide show retrospective of last year's major events and projects; you'll meet our Local Scholarship recipients and Tech Trek campers; you'll learn about the new Branch Strategic Plan ... and much more. Do invite friends and family members to celebrate with you and to learn about our Branch's lively interest groups—but YOU are the guests of honor.

As you look ahead, remember that any Branch member can suggest a program topic or activity. Discuss your idea with Program VP Peg Carlson-Bowen or with Bonnie Austin who is planning the Third Wednesday programs. While your dues are absolutely essential to the Branch's promotion of gender equity, the more active you are "on the ground" the more you will enjoy your membership. Why not make a new year's resolution in September? Join a committee or Community Action Project, volunteer to help organize a program or promote an event, attend an Open House or a Board meeting and explore the many opportunities for becoming involved in Branch activities and leadership. Whatever your interests, start your journey of exploration on September 13 at Fall Event. See you there!

Board Matters



The first Board meeting of 2014-15 will be on Wednesday, September 3, 7-8:30 pm at Headquarters. Come at 6:30 pm if you would like to share a light potluck. You are welcome to see the Board in action and to contribute ideas to our discussions. We will have a full agenda since many Branch committees (Finance, Program, Public Policy, Building & Properties) and our Parliamentarian have motions that need to be passed to get the 2014-15 year officially under way. "Board Matters" will report on these motions and any other major Board decisions in the October BONFIRE. Minutes of the September meeting will be posted at Headquarters in the front entryway by mid-September.

AAUW San Jose Strategic Plan

The Goals and Objectives of the AAUW San Jose Three-Year Strategic Plan were approved by the Board on June 30. The full report, which includes a list of proposed Strategies and Action Plans, is available by contacting President Diane Trombetta. There will be opportunities for all Branch members to comment on the plan in the weeks ahead.

GOAL 1: AAUW San Jose will become more visible and active in the community.

OBJECTIVES:

- Make a tangible, positive impact on the lives of girls and women.
- Increase local community awareness of the AAUW San Jose Branch.
- Meet community needs through the use of Branch resources and talents.
- Enable women to make informed decisions regarding public policy.

GOAL 2: AAUW San Jose will foster consistent growth in the size, retention, and diversity of its membership.

OBJECTIVES:

- Help new members feel welcome and included.
- Fulfill the leadership and expertise needs of the Branch.
- Ensure the sustainability of AAUW San Jose.

GOAL 3: AAUW San Jose will advance the AAUW Mission and the Branch Vision through its programs and activities.

OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure members' knowledge of Mission and Vision.
- Inspire members to act in support of the Mission and Vision.
- Coordinate activities and programs to advance the Mission and Vision.

GOAL 4: AAUW San Jose's Board of Directors will ensure the Branch's ability to grow and develop through sustainable use of financial and human resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- Use the budget to implement Branch priorities while preserving the long-term fiscal health of the Branch.
- Ensure long-term financial stability of the building funds.
- Develop a sustainable flow of capable leaders.
- Ensure effective functioning of the Board.

Branch Programs and Updates

Public Policy

AAUW Launches 2014 It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard Campaign

Jacqui Gustafarro and Gloria Leonard, Public Policy Co-Chairs

In 2012 "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard" was a great success, registering and turning out millennial women voters nationwide. The Campaign is being renewed for the critical 2014 midterm elections. At the San Jose Branch we will conduct voter registration drives with our C/U members; hold voter education forums; and publish fact sheets on issues important to women. All branch members are welcome to join our efforts. See us at the Public Policy table at Fall Event and/or the next meeting on September 16.

AAUW-CA has taken positions on three ballot initiatives. To read the rationale for the positions, go to www.aauw-ca.org/PublicPolicy. Join the pros and cons discussion when we partner with the League of Women Voters SJ/SC on Saturday, October 11 (see the Public Policy bulletin board at Headquarters and the back page of the BONFIRE).

Proposition 45 Approval of Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes. Initiative Statute: **OPPOSE**

Proposition 46 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits. Initiative Statute: **OPPOSE**

Proposition 47 Criminal Sentences, Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute: **SUPPORT**

Student Interns Working For Our Branch

Diane Trombetta and Jacqui Gustafarro

Our Branch is fortunate to have two intelligent, talented and highly skilled college students completing summer internships with us. **Claire Muller** is a senior at Santa Clara University majoring in Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies. A member of the International Honor Society in Psychology, she has worked as Office Manager at the Multicultural Center at SCU, as a Research Assistant at the Women's and Gender Studies Department, and as a volunteer at girlsBEST (girls Building Economic Success Together) in Minneapolis. Watch for the flyer and program notes she de-

signed for Fall Event and the Power Point she created to introduce our Branch Strategic Plan. **Veena Bansal** is a fourth-year student at UC Davis, majoring in Political Science and Psychology. Veena volunteered with AAUW because she wants to gain diverse experiences and "to make a difference in the lives of women who suffer from societal constraints." She has worked with middle and high school students at [Culture C.O.-O.P.](http://Culture.C.O.-O.P.), participated in student government at UCD, written a regular sports column for The California Aggie, and worked as a tour guide. She is helping the Public Policy Committee to develop Get Out the Vote materials, including information on the issues facing voters in November. Come and meet Veena and Claire at Fall Event on September 13!

College/University Relations Committee Appoints New Co-Chair

Helen Stevens and Suzanne Doty, Co-Chairs

Suzanne Doty joins Helen Stevens as Co-Chair of C/URC. AAUW opens doors to grants and fellowships, leadership training, professional development, educational resources, and advocacy tools for our College/University (C/U) Partners. As the San Jose Branch begins another year with our local partners (Evergreen Valley, San Jose City, San Jose State, and Santa Clara), we encourage interested Branch members to join us.

Suzanne is President of the Association of California Commissions for Women, sits on the Board of the National Association of Commissions for Women, is a commissioner on the Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women (chair from 2008- 2012), and is a member of Soroptimist International of Santa Clara Silicon Valley. There are a lot of exciting plans for this year. To join the team, contact Suzanne or Helen.

Branch Programs and Updates

Tech Trek

Stanford Camp Curie 2014

Jane Guinther, Dorm Mom

Every year new and exciting events make Stanford Tech Trek the happening place.



Whether you're 13 years old as a camper, 15 as a Junior counselor, 18 as a senior counselor, or 22+ as Dorm Moms and staff, we're surrounded by new learning adventures in STEM.

Elaine Benoit and I, as Dorm Moms attended as many classes as our schedule permitted because they are all fabulous!

Concrete Canoe Race--not your sexiest sounding class. The girls and staff gave this presentation the most accolades! Our teacher was a former camper, JC, teacher's aide, and recent Cal Poly engineering graduate, Kea Jolicoeur. She was on a team designing, building and racing concrete canoes with engineering schools across the US. Her school won the last 10 years. The girls were engaged with every question and word said. Every camper spent 4 creative hours building and programming robots

with Kea. Following our Friday night Build It program, we celebrated birthdays topped with Kea's intricate Fire Dance. Talk about a role model for our girls; Kea was it. She embodies the independent-thinking spirit, creating, teaching, sharing and giving STEM a personality.

You sponsored 7 bright young San Jose girls to see and experience life outside their box. Please engage with our campers at Fall Event where they will be speaking. They now have reason to explore, dream and discover. We all thank you for caring and sharing with us to make Tech Trek a reality.

Bonus Dollars for Teen Holiday Gift Bags

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens



Gifts for Teens has been awarded an additional grant for a dollar-to-dollar match from Silicon Valley Community Foundation as part of the recent Silicon Valley Gives campaign. What a wonderful surprise and honor for our Branch to be recognized as one of the Safety Net organizations providing services to teens in Silicon Valley and helping make our community a better place to live.

An additional way AAUW members can now support Gifts for Teens is through [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile). When you purchase items on [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), the Amazon foundation donates 0.5% of your purchase price of eligible items to Gifts for Teens. There is no additional cost to you and you'll find the same exact shopping experience as Amazon.com including using your same account number. It's easy and automatic. The first time you log on, you'll be asked to select a charity. Type in ISPF AAUW Gifts for Teens and this will be the charity of your choice whenever you return to the site. So, whenever you purchase merchandise from Amazon, remember to first enter [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) in your browser. The donations we receive will make a tremendous impact on our Branch mission to be more active in the community by providing holiday gift bags for teens in need.

Financially Fit For Life

Jean Boyden, FFFL Chair

Would you like to help young women manage their money and pay for college? Financially Fit for Life has programs scheduled to do these things in the coming year, and we need your help. As a Branch Community Action Project, FFFL provides these and other programs to the community--primarily to young women--and to our Branch. No experience is required--just an interest in money management and a willingness to learn new things and share them with others.

To learn more about our program join us for a social hour on Monday, September 15 at 1:30 pm at the home of Jean Boyden. Please call 408-268-4872 or send email to Jean Boyden to let us know of your interest and attendance.

Local Scholarship at Fall Event

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship



Thanks to the generosity of AAUW members, AAUW San Jose was able to grant \$29,500 in scholarships to 12 very deserving women. Most of them will be in attendance at Fall Event where you will have the opportunity to meet them. Our featured speaker, Vanessa Aldaco, will reflect upon the honor of being the recipient of the \$4000 Edie Kerr Scholarship, given in honor of past committee chair Edie Kerr.

Looking ahead, for those of you who do crafts and/or needlework, please consider donating hand-crafted items for the November Holiday Boutique. It is largely due to donations from our members that we are able to continue to provide these valuable scholarships. We couldn't do it without you! Feel free to contact Grace O'Leary for further information.

Branch Programs and Updates

Membership Matters

NEW MEMBERS

Claire Campodonico

LINDA ALEPIN is the chair of the Board at Global Women's Leadership Network. She was the recipient of the 2013 AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt award. She also is the Founder, President and CEO of Pebblesoft Learning, Inc., and spent 18 years at Amdahl Corporation, ending as Vice-President of Strategy. Linda was the keynote speaker at our Branch's Installation Luncheon last spring.

SHARON NIEDERMAIER lives in Cupertino. She knew of our Branch through her participation with Tech Excellence. Sharon received her BS in Pharmacology from Wayne State University in Detroit and her Masters in Health Services Administration from the University of Detroit. She spent her career at the Veterans' Hospital in Palo Alto and at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City. She is a longtime community volunteer.

JUNE McCULLOUGH studied at UC San Diego for two years before transferring to Cal State Fullerton where she earned her BA in Communication Sciences and Disorders as well as her MA in Audiology. From the University of Iowa, June received her Doctorate in Hearing Science. She is currently a professor at San Jose State University, teaching in the department of Communication Disorders and Sciences. She was referred by member Edna Robison.

MARILYN PACHOREK was referred by Tech Excellence and Edna Robison. Marilyn earned her BA in Biology from UC Davis, and continuing there, she received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. She is a veterinarian at Los Gatos Dog and Cat Hospital where she works with member Loren Reynolds. She practices small animal general medicine and surgery. Marilyn has worked with Tech Excellence for more than 10 years.

JENNIFER SMITH was referred by Jean Reed and our Sports Equity program. She lives in Los Altos Hills. She graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Interpersonal Communication. She also did graduate coursework in Organization Development at Marymount University in Arlington, VA. Jennifer has more than 24 years of experience as a Human Development Executive. She is currently co-chair of Common Ground Speaker Series and CEO of the Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative (BAWSI).

SUSAN POORMAN was referred by the Almaden Times newspaper. She studied at UC Berkeley where she earned her BA in Social Welfare. From UCLA, she received her MA in Library Science. Susan worked in New York's Public Library system as a children's librarian. She is currently seeking employment.

MICKEY NORUM graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a BA in Art History. Having been employed in the Quality Assurance field, she is now at home enjoying raising her son. Mickey was referred by her mother-in-law Barbara Norum who is the President of the AAUW Oakland-Piedmont Branch.

CHRISTA NORUM was also referred to our Branch by her mother-in-law Barbara Norum. Christa received her BA from UCLA in American Literature and Culture. At SJSU she obtained her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential as well as her MA in Curriculum and Instruction. She teaches 5th grade at Castlemont Elementary school where she is their Technology Integration Coach.

Members who have joined our Branch during the past year will be wearing special "new member" ribbons on their nametags at Fall Event. Please make sure that you introduce yourself and help them to feel welcome at this first event of the year.

Pizza for Teen Gifts



Enjoy a pizza night out on **Monday, September 8** while supporting a fundraiser for Gifts for Teens. Patxi's Pizzeria at the Pruneyard (1875 South Bascom in Campbell from 11 am to 10 pm) will donate 10% of the entire day's sales to Gifts for Teens. Dine in, pick-up, take-out or delivery; call 408 559-0700. Gather friends and family for lunch or dinner at Patxi's. Or, how about Pizza and Monday night football! Contact [Elaine Benoit](#) with questions.

Film Fans

Whether you're a long time Film enthusiast or just looking for a little fun after a hard week, please come join us. Film Fans is a casual group of friends who get together the second Sunday each month at a local movie theater. After watching a film together we converge at a local coffee shop to discuss the show. Since movies change weekly, we cannot announce the time or film selection in advance. Instead, on the Thursday or Friday beforehand there is a flurry of emails between Film Fan members as we collectively select the show. We are a very loosely structured interest group so please feel free to come as often as you'd like. Family and friends are always welcome. Contact [Linda Snashall](#) to be on the notification list.

New Spanish Conversation Group

Our branch is launching a Spanish conversation group on Tuesday September 9 at 9:30 am at the home of Barbara Snyder. This organizational meeting is to find a group of Branch members wanting to regularly speak informally in Spanish. Even if your Spanish is very halting, bring your dictionary and take advantage of this chance. If you are interested, contact [Barbara Snyder](#).

July 2014 AAUW BRIDGE WINNERS

[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

First Monday Joan Benedetti, Judy Kumagai, Sue Dietz

Second Monday Pat Mikolic, Leela Viswanathan, Alma Powell

Second Thursday Sandra Savage

Second Friday (Duplicate) Mary Fitzgerald, Joan Benedetti, Darline Wilson

Third Friday Wanda Foss, Judy Kumagai, Mary Ellen Heising

Fourth Tuesday Gay Gale, Nancy Valby

November

Tuesday

4

Election Day

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

Branch Programs and Updates

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

All meetings are at Headquarters unless otherwise noted. Some groups have space or participation limits. If you are new to a group or only attend occasionally, please contact the group to confirm that there is space available. RSVP means that the group needs to know who will attend.

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 jjkreed@comcast.net.

September 1, Monday
Party Bridge
No meeting on Labor Day

Dienstag 2 Septembre um 11 Uhr
Deutsch Konversation
bei Pat Brie RSVP

September 7, Sunday
Weekend Walkers
Sierra Vista Open Space
RSVP jjkreed@comcast.net

September 8, Monday 10 am – 1 pm
Bridge
Rosemary Busch

September 8, Monday 6 pm
Gourmet Light
Member's home
Cheryl Markman

Martes 9 Septiembre a las nueve
Conversación español
a la casa de Barbara Snyder RSVP

September 9, Tuesday 10 – 11:30 am
2nd Tuesday Book Club
Luncheon of the Boating Party (Vreeland)
Joyce Baker
408-259-8343

September 10, Wednesday 10:30 am
Art Appreciation
Planning session & Potluck Lunch
Margaret Bard

September 12, Friday 10 am
Duplicate Bridge
Lida Kluzek

September 13, Saturday 6:30 pm
Couples Gourmet
Margaret Bard

September 14, Sunday
Film Fans
Linda Snashall

September 15, Monday 6:30 pm
International Gourmet
Member's home
Arline Veteska

16 Septiembere,
Mardi,
à 11 heures
Conversation français
chez Pat Brie RSVP

September 18, Thursday 10 am
Family History
Susan Brundage

September 18, 7pm
Mystery Lovers
Blue Heaven (CJ Box)
Sharon Shephard

September 19, Friday 6:30 pm
Singles Potluck
Jean Wyatt 408-262-3372

September 19, Friday 10 am
Bridge
Lida Kluzek

September 22, Monday 6:30 pm
Vegetarian Gourmet Potluck
Jean Wyatt 408-262-3372

September 23, Tuesday 11:30 am
Lunch Bunch
Boudin Bakery Café
5245 Prospect
RSVP Sally Brandt
408-265-4377

September 23, Tuesday 7:15 pm
Bridge - Member's home
Bobbie Eckerman

September 24, Wednesday 10-12 noon
Friends – planning meeting
Bring a game to share
Sharon Bouska

September 25, Thursday 6:30 pm
Game Night
RSVP Sandee Plymire
408-280-5799

Meetings & Events

September 2, Tuesday 7 pm
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Bobbie Baker

September 3, Wednesday 7 – 8:30 pm
Board Meeting
Diane Trombetta

September 8, Monday 11 am - 10 pm
Gifts for Teens
Fundraiser at Patxi's Pizza
Pruneyard, 1875 S. Bascom, Campbell
Elaine Benoit or 408 268-9654

September 13, Saturday 9:30 am – 1 pm
Fall Event
(see front page)
Diane Trombetta

September 15, Monday 1:30 pm
Financially Fit for Life
Home of Jean Boyden

September 22, Monday 9:30 – 11:30 am
Building & Properties Committee
Linda Guyer

September 26, Friday 1:30 pm
Local Scholarship Committee
Grace O'Leary

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San Jose Branch

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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 *Established in 1909*

Needed: Informed voters

2014 Get Out The Vote Campaign

San Jose Public Policy Committee

and League of Women Voters present:



Pros and Cons on Props 45, 46 and 47

Will AAUW policy priorities be advanced or undermined by ballot initiatives?

Saturday, October 11

10 am – 12 noon

Bascom Library Community Room

1000 South Bascom Avenue

San Jose 95128

Free and open to the public

For information: [Gloria Leonard](#)



Empowering Women Since 1881

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