

San Jose Branch

**BONFIRE****Empowering Women Since 1881****Sunday December 14****1 to 3 pm****Headquarters**

# Holiday on Ice (Breakers)

All year long we're pulling volunteers together, preparing for book clubs or Great Decisions meetings, fund-raising, tracking finances and figuring out logistics for Community Action Projects. Sometimes it seems like we don't have enough time to just get to know each other better. Our Holiday Season get-together is an opportunity to pause a bit, relax and just enjoy each other's company. Many of our new members have come from other areas of the country and this will be a chance to learn more about them and welcome them to the community.

Please bring a small plate of holiday goodies to share (and the recipes, as I'm sure they'll be asked for!) We'll provide liquid refreshments and the ice (breakers)! If you would like to volunteer to help decorate and set up before the event, please email [Peg Carlson-Bowen](mailto:Peg.Carlson-Bowen@aaupacific.org).



## Gifts for Teens



What: Assemble Holiday Gift Bags

How: Volunteer – Contact [Beverly Bassett](mailto:Beverly.Bassett@aaupacific.org)

Where: Assembly site – 6942 Almaden Expressway, San Jose (corner of Via Valiente)

When: December 3-11, morning or afternoon shifts

What: Donate items or cash –or leave donated gift items at AAUW Headquarters; or make checks payable to ISPF-AAUW/GFT and mail to AAUW Headquarters, Attn: Gifts For Teens, 1165 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose 95125. Contact: [Elaine Benoit](mailto:Elaine.Benoit@aaupacific.org) (408 268-9654)

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



### Presidential Notes

[Diane Trombetta](#)

In the numerous meetings I've attended in the past few months, members have suggested many ways our Branch could function more effectively and reach a wider audience. I've been struck by how many of these suggestions have already been addressed or are a "work in progress" inspired by our Strategic Plan. My President's column this month will bring you up to date.

*"Make Board meetings more interesting and effective."* We adopted an "action agenda" model, sending most reports and announcements to Board members in advance. This frees up valuable meeting time and allows us to discuss a wide range of issues and to make important decisions.

*"Improve communication between the Board and the members."* The new monthly column "Board Matters" tells members about major decisions and discussions of each Board meeting; minutes are posted at Headquarters every month. At Fall Event, instead of inviting an outside speaker, we focused on the various roles of our Board members and the projects and programs for which they are responsible.

*"Members of interest groups need to know about the AAUW mission."* Our Interest Group Coordinator (IGC) Sharon Bouska regularly passes on news and information from the Board to the interest groups. In August, at a Tea in their honor, the IGC discussed the role of the interest groups in supporting the AAUW mission. She arranged Q and A sessions on our 2014-17 Strategic Plan.

*"We keep creating new committees without enough volunteers to manage them or their projects."* In keeping with this good suggestion, we have eliminated the Health Equity and Education Equity Committees, since members who want to focus on these issues can work within the Public Policy Committee (PPC). The PPC is a permanent Standing Committee dedicated to promoting health and education equity as part of AAUW's Public Policy Program.

*"New members need orientation and mentoring."* The Membership Committee has designated a special shift for new members to volunteer together for Gifts for Teens. New members are invited to all the open houses to learn more about the Branch and to meet other members.

*"We should get more active in social media so we can attract younger members."* Last year, we organized two

workshops on the uses of social media by nonprofits. This year we have members designated as "administrators" of our Branch Facebook page, and our page is livelier and richer than ever. We have conducted two Facebook workshops and two more are scheduled on January 10 and 24, 2015.

*"We should use the skills that new members list on their membership applications."* We recently completed a contact list of all members who have joined in the last two years and indicated a willingness to volunteer, along with their skills.

*"Our Community Action Projects (CAPs) don't get enough promotion."* Fall Event was a step in giving our CAPs the attention they deserve. Our "Wine Down" program in November featured CAPs.

*"We should collaborate with other nonprofits."* We collaborate with the Office of Women's Policy on the yearly "Strong Girls – Strong Women" conference, and have co-sponsored \$tart \$mart workshops with two of our campus partners. Financially Fit For Life has conducted workshops at various community locations. We have completed a contact list of local nonprofits which our Branch can use to find co-sponsors and create collaborations for events and projects.

*"Our Branch has so many groups, projects and committees—it's really confusing, especially to new members."* The introductory pages of the Directory were rewritten. It is now a Branch handbook as well as a membership directory. We added graphics and describe the Branch's organization, its major projects and standing committees, its relationship to AAUW, and the various opportunities to support and promote the AAUW mission through the Branch.

We appreciate constructive criticism and suggestions. Guess what we appreciate even more: your willingness to share your time and talents as a volunteer. We need more volunteers, especially members who will take leadership roles in 2015-16. Seeing your suggestions implemented is deeply rewarding.

### *In Memoriam*

Long time member Denise Kwan passed away November 12 of complications following surgery. Denise was interested in international issues and contributed her artistic skills to the front page of the BONFIRE for a few years. She loved Bridge and will be deeply missed by her many Bridge playing friends.

### Board Matters

1. We celebrated Headquarters' new look - carpet, interior paint job and repairs - and the incredible accomplishments of the Building and Properties Committee with cake and champagne. Diane Trombetta christened the new carpet by spilling her glass.
2. We voted to continue the Interbranch Council's subscription to Meet Up for six months.
3. The Board approved a plan for allocation and management of the \$100,000 donation by Ruby Trombetta.
4. [Ellen diBiase](#), AAUW Funds/LAF Vice President, announced that she is moving to Pittsburgh. [Kathy Bechly](#) has been working unofficially as a Funds and Funds-LAF "treasurer" for about two years. The Board approved her appointment as the new LAF Vice President for the remainder of this fiscal year.
5. The Board approved Branch Facebook page posting guidelines.

### AAUW San Jose on Facebook

Our Branch now has three official administrators for our [Facebook page](#): [Jill Holdaway](#), [Peg Carlson-Bowen](#), and [Gloria Leonard](#). Our Facebook page will be an informative, entertaining, lively and interactive page full of text and pictures that tell the world:

1. Who AAUW is and what is AAUW's mission
2. The positive impact we have on the lives of women and girls
3. How we combine friendship, personal enrichment, advocacy, research, philanthropy, education and community collaboration all in one Branch.

Please take a look at the [AAUW San Jose Branch Facebook](#) page.

### The 2014-17 Branch Strategic Plan: Branch Members Respond

Through the survey sent in early October, every Branch member had the opportunity to rate the Strategies and Actions suggested in the Strategic Plan. Twenty six percent (85) of you responded – an excellent return by professional polling standards. The majority of members "strongly agreed" or "agreed" to all of the suggested Strategies and Actions for each four Goals and added comments and additional suggestions. The committees and projects to whom these Strategies and Actions apply now have the support they need from you to implement the Strategic Plan. Tables showing response totals for each question and members' suggestions are available upon request, and hard copies are in the sun porch at Headquarters. Keep reading the BONFIRE to learn about the progress being made in achieving our goals!

### Learning with Tech Excellence

What is the best snack to eat? How much protein does it have? What does 10 grams of fat really look like? What drink has the highest Vitamin C content? What exercises can I do to relieve stress?

These and other nutrition and exercise related topics were explored by twenty-six 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls at John Muir. The "yuck factor" was high when the girls actually weighed out fat content using Crisco. They discovered how much Vitamin C content is in various juices, while learning chemistry lab testing procedures. They gained valuable knowledge of some stress reducing exercises from Kristin Strellis, a yoga instructor and science major in Corporate Exercise. All in all it was a valuable day for

the girls as they gained an understanding for making good choices for a healthy lifestyle. The AAUW volunteers learned a lot as well!

Next on tap for Tech Excellence – we will be flying high! On Monday, January 12, Andrea Connell, a United Airlines pilot, will explain the four principles of flight, and then the girls will put their knowledge to use making different kinds of airplanes. On Wednesday, January 28, we will take a field trip to the Hiller Aviation Museum, where the girls will get to fly a small plane using a flight simulator. Please consider joining us in January. You too will learn! For more information, contact [Nancy Hooton](#).

## AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

### Welcome New Members

#### Claire Campodonico

**JOHANNA BIROS** was referred to our Branch by Sandra Savage. Johanna earned her BA in Graphic Design from San Jose State University. After a long career in Graphic Design, she is now retired.

**JULIE MAYEDA** found us on the internet as she was searching for women's groups and opportunities to volunteer. She went to Sonoma State and double majored in Sociology and Women and Gender Studies. She had planned on saving the world, but no one would hire her with her education but no experience. She has been employed by Starbucks for the past four years. She lived in Willow Glen until she was five years of age then moved to South San Jose where she now lives.

**SAN PHOENIX** was referred by member Karelle Cornwell. San received her BS in Computer Science from the University of Maryland and her MS in Computer Science from Johns Hopkins University. Winding down her long career as a software engineer, she is currently employed part-time by IBM. A resident of Morgan Hill, she is looking to AAUW for meaningful projects when she fully retires.

**HELEN KUHN** is a returning member. She was a member of our Branch in the 1970s and now looks forward to reconnecting with AAUW. She graduated from Ohio State University. Now retired, she worked as an Enrolled Agent representing tax clients. She also volunteered for many years at a Presbyterian church.

### Building and Properties Committee

#### Linda Guyer



If you have been to Headquarters recently, you have seen new interior paint and new carpet. There have also been some less visible changes. The foundation has been reinforced and other safety improvements in the basement have been completed, along with minor roof repair and gutter cleaning. The outside stairs and decking are being coated with protective material, and the upstairs banister and landing have been repaired. The Building and Properties Committee members have had a busy fall organizing and supervising these many improvements.

Linda Snashall facilitated the donation of the carpet and padding. Thank you to Linda for her many hours of work on our behalf! The Ruby Trombetta Donation has funded all of the updates, allowing us to proceed rapidly and without using any reserve monies.

Please keep our donors in mind if you are purchasing or installing carpet: Mohawk Carpet and B.T. Mancini Co. Commercial Floor Covering, 876 S. Milpitas Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035 (408-942-7900). We also would like to highly recommend the painter and the general contractor, both of whom were generous with their time and pa-

tience while working around our busy schedule at Headquarters: Ron Hunter Line Painting Company, 1938 Creek Drive, San Jose, CA 95125 (408-723-2242) and Barry at Renfro Construction & Roofing Co., 875 Franquette Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125 (408-265-4748).

Lastly, our committee thanks Mary Barry, Mary Francis and Sandra Savage for their work in securing renters for the upstairs office: Total Building Care, Inc. (888-589-4238).

You can all help keep Headquarters beautiful: Please do not use sticky tape or notes of any kind on walls or woodwork at Headquarters. Because of the varnish used, every piece of tape will leave a mark. No exceptions for painter's tape.

### Thank You!

The Local Scholarship Community Action Project members thank all of you who supported the Holiday Boutique by donating and shopping. We especially appreciate those who contributed handcrafts, baked goods, vintage treasures, and themed baskets through the interest groups. Your contributions to Local Scholarship inspire us all as we fulfill our mission of equity through education and philanthropy.

### Did You Know?

As an AAUW San Jose member, you can review the General Fund and the Building Fund budgets at any time – just ask! You can see how the Ruby Trombetta (RT) donation, member dues, and rental income are being used, and suggest projects or programs you think would promote the AAUW mission and benefit our Branch.





### AAUW San Jose Branch Money Matters

Great News For AAUW San Jose! To celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Ruby Trombetta has donated \$100,000 to AAUW San Jose. The Board has approved the following allocation in accordance with the donor's wishes: the Building Fund will receive \$35,000; leadership development, membership and programs will each receive \$15,000; Community Action Projects Tech Excellence/Tech Trek, Local Scholarship and Gifts For Teens will each receive \$6,000. The remaining \$2,000 will be used as needed by Financially Fit For Life, Title IX/Sports Equity and Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Each year, a report to the Branch and to the Trombetta family will describe what was accomplished with that year's use of the donation. Ruby is President Diane Trombetta's mother. Her granddaughters Liza and Loren Reynolds are also Branch members. Diane and Ruby are confident that the Board will use the donation wisely – to the benefit of the Branch, the community and the AAUW mission.

The AAUW San Jose Branch's final financial activity reports for the fiscal year 2013-2014 are summarized below. The complete reports are available upon request.

#### General Fund Final Report for 2013-2014

[Virginia Beck](#), Finance Officer

Income: \$11,057

Dues - \$7,950; Roundup and Donations – \$2,217; Directory Ads – \$890.00

Carryover from 2012-2013: \$2,154 (designated by Board for new website expenses)

Expenses: \$12,166

Membership – \$627; Fall Event – \$796; Programs – \$717; Collaborations – \$1,018; Conventions and Training – \$1,250; BONFIRE and Directory – \$1,762; Website – \$2,632; Insurance/Tax – \$1,231; President/Treasurer/Office – \$1,361; Computer/Internet & Equipment – \$772

#### Building Fund Final Report for 2013-2014

[Susan Dietz](#), Building and Properties Committee Treasurer

Income: \$18,565

Rental of upstairs office – \$17,200; Donations, Interest and Other – \$1,365

Expenses: \$12,908

Taxes and Insurance – \$3,757; Cleaning and Janitorial – \$2,245; Utilities – \$2,646; Gardening and Landscaping – \$1,420; Short Term Repair and Maintenance – \$2,256; Supplies and Miscellaneous – \$100; Long Term Repair and Maintenance – \$484

Net Income: \$5,657

#### Neighbors Helping Neighbors "Warm Hearts"

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) kicked off its annual Warm Hearts project with a "sock drive" at our November 3 meeting. From November to March, NHN collects new or gently used warm clothing (hats, scarves, gloves, jackets, sweaters, and underwear - large to extra large sizes preferred) as well as blankets and sleeping bags.



The project benefits the homeless clients of Santa Maria Urban Ministry in San Jose. Donations can be brought to the NHN meetings (first Monday of each month at 7 pm; no meeting in December) or placed in the Warm Hearts bins in the parlor closets at AAUW San Jose Headquarters. Contact [Barbara Shaffer](#).

#### Volunteer to Update Branch Policies and Procedures

Do you have an eye for detail? Are you curious about how our Branch operates? We need "a few good women" to help [Edna Robison](#) and me review and edit our Policies and Procedures and Job Descriptions. You do not need to be an expert on Branch governance or operations for this three-month (Spring 2015) project. Contact Bylaws Committee Chair [Pat Diamond](#).

## Public Policy

### Report Card for the California Legislature and the Governor

Jacqui Gustafarro and Gloria Leonard, Co-Chairs, Public Policy

AAUW CA supported (through lobbying, support letters and Action Alerts) 13 bills that made it through the legislative process, onto the Governor's desk for signature, and signed by him into law. Other AAUW CA supported bills (about 12) were supported or opposed, but they did not proceed. These bills might be brought up for consideration in the next session (referred to as a "two-year bills"). The legislation falls within the framework of AAUW's Public Policy Program and within the areas of education, health care, reproductive rights and civil rights (human trafficking). A report by bill number and subject can be found on the Public Policy bulletin board at Headquarters. Subscribe to AAUW CA Action Alert ([www.aauw-ca.org/PublicPolicy](http://www.aauw-ca.org/PublicPolicy)) to engage in the process.

100 Women in Congress ... Finally! There are now 100 women in Congress. This is the most ever in the history of the U.S. It is still disproportionate, but a step in the right direction. Now let's see us move up to 200!

Even though some candidates who supported AAUW-backed issues were defeated in the elections, many of the ballot issues AAUW supported did well around the country. Minimum wage increases passed in four states, and Massachusetts passed a paid sick leave measure. Anti-choice initiatives were rejected in Colorado and North Dakota. Laws in states requiring photo ID prevented many African-Americans and young people from voting. This had an impact on the outcome of elections within those states.

The election results also revealed that targeting women's issues specifically doesn't work. It is viewed by many as pitting women against men. Although this seems out of date, this attitude still exists. Putting the focus on the economy as it impacts families in general seems to be viewed in a more positive light. This is something AAUW and other groups supporting women and families will have to consider in the future. It also remains to be seen how the newly-elected women senators and representatives will defend women in the areas of equal pay, health care, reproductive rights, domestic violence, family leave and better access to daycare.

AAUW Public Policy, at national, state and local levels, is committed to doing all it can to improve the lives of women throughout our country. We need all the help we can get. Please consider attending our next meeting on January 20 and sharing your great ideas for how our Branch can help lead on these issues that remain so important to women and their families.



### Great Decisions Groups Invite New Members

Our chapter's two Great Decisions Groups extend an invitation to AAUW members to groups now forming for the 2015 season. Com-

ing together to explore eight current topics set by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA), we use the FPA handbooks and view DVD interviews by experts to set the context of our discussions. Most of us know little about the subjects. We come together to learn.

This coming year, the issues we will delve into are: Russia and the Near Abroad, Privacy in the Digital Age;

Sectarianism in the Middle East; India Changes Course; U.S. Policy Toward Africa; Syria's Refugee Crisis; Human Trafficking in the 21st Century; and Brazil's Metamorphosis.

The morning group meets on the second and fourth Thursday mornings, February through May, from 9:30 to 11:30 am at Headquarters. For more information, please contact [Maureen Curulla](mailto:Maureen.Curulla@aaup.org) (408-227-4937). The evening group meets on the fourth Tuesday, January thru August, from 7 to 8:30 pm at Headquarters. For more information, please contact [Jan Palajac](mailto:Jan.Palajac@aaup.org) (510-557-4019).

## AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at Headquarters. To schedule a meeting, check the [Branch Calendar](#), then contact [Laura Manthey](#). If you are new to a group or only attend occasionally, please contact the group to confirm that space is 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 Lost Gatos Creek Trail. To receive weekly emails about walks, contact [Jean Reed](#)

December 1, Monday 9:30 – 12:30 pm  
**First Monday Bridge**  
[Pat Mikloic](#)

Dienstag 2 Dez um 11 Uhr  
**Deutsche Unterhaltung**  
bei [Barbara Snyder](#) RSVP

December 8, Monday 10 am - 1 pm  
**Second Monday Bridge**  
[Rosemary Busch](#)

Martes 9 Dec a las diez  
**Conversación española**  
RSVP [Nan Toledo](#)

December 9, Tuesday 12 noon  
**Lunch Bunch**  
Nemea Greek Taverna  
96 S. 1st Street  
[RSVP Elaine McMahon](#)  
408-723-8004

December 10, Wednesday 11:00 am  
**Art Appreciation**  
Meet at AAUW Headquarters  
San Jose Quilt Museum- \$7.00 fee  
Antique Ohio Amish Quilts dating  
from 1880-1940  
Brunch at Crepevine followed by  
museum at 12:45 PM  
Contact Lynn Ray at  
[lynnsray92941@msn.com](mailto:lynnsray92941@msn.com)

December 13, Saturday 6:30 pm  
**Couples Gourmet**  
[Margaret Bard](#) 408-377-6625

December 13, Saturday 7 – 8:30 pm  
**Weekend Walkers**  
Holiday Lights Walk  
Potluck at 6 pm  
[Jean Reed](#)

December 14, Sunday 7 pm  
**Be In The Seats** with BAWSI girls  
Stanford vs SCU at Stanford  
[Laura Manthey](#)

December 15, Monday 6:30pm  
**International Gourmet**  
Dessert & Gift Exchange  
RSVP [Arline Veteska](#)

Mardi 16 Dec  
à 11 heures  
**Conversation Français**  
chez [Barbara Snyder](#) RSVP

December 18, Thursday 7:15 pm  
**Evening Bridge**  
[Bobbie Eckerman](#) 408-266-0560

December 19, Friday 10 am  
**Bridge**  
[Lida Kluzek](#) 408-294-4770

December 19, Friday 6:30 pm  
**Singles Potluck**  
[Jean Wyatt](#) 408-262-3372

**Friends**  
Next meeting January 28



**Be in the Seats!**  
**Sunday, December 14:**  
Support Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative BAWSI girls and attend the Stanford Women's Basketball game versus Santa Clara University. Game time is 7 pm at Maples Pavilion on the Stanford campus. Contact: [Laura Manthey](#)



### Willow Glen Holiday Lights Walk

The Willow Glen neighborhood around Headquarters is well-known for its wonderful holiday lights. On December 13, the South Bay Striders will join Weekend Walkers for an evening walk. Come to Headquarters at 6 pm with a dish to share if you want start the evening with a potluck supper. We'll leave at 7 pm for the walk which takes us through the "tunnel of lights" and past Santa and his sleigh. RSVP to [Jean Reed](#) (408-297-2691) so we don't leave anyone behind.

### Meetings & Events

December 3, Wednesday 7 pm  
**Board Meeting**  
Social time from 6:30 pm  
[Diane Trombetta](#)  
All members welcome!

December 8, Monday 1 pm  
**Financially Fit For Life**  
[Jean Boyden](#)

December 14, Sunday 1 – 3 pm  
**Holiday on Ice (Breakers)**  
See Front Page

December 22, Monday 9:30 – 11:30 am  
**Building and Properties Committee**  
[Laura Manthey](#)

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**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.

**San Jose Branch**

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Phone: 408-294-2430

**PERIODICALS**

**POSTAGE PAID**

**AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909***

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## SAVE THE DATE

In celebration of Ruby Trombetta's 100th birthday *and* to acknowledge her very generous donation of \$100,000 to our Branch, there will be a birthday celebration and thank you party at Headquarters on Saturday, **January 3** from 2 to 4 pm. Plan to come!

Two Facebook workshops are scheduled for 2015: Saturday, **January 10** (for beginners) and Saturday, **January 24** (some Facebook experience). Both are scheduled from 10 am to noon at Headquarters. Come early if you need to connect to Wi-Fi. RSVP to [Diane Trombetta](#).

Be In The Seats! Thursday, **January 8** and Thursday, **January 29** at 7 pm. Members of Title IX/Sports Equity will attend the Santa Clara Women's Basketball games at Leavey Center. Mark your calendar now.



*Empowering Women Since 1881*

See the San Jose Branch Website at [www.aauwsanjose.org](http://www.aauwsanjose.org) for more information.