

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE



Empowering Women Since 1881



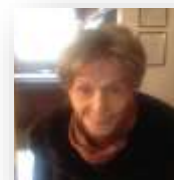
You are invited to a

Birthday - Thank You - New Year's Party

January 3, 2 to 4 pm at Headquarters

Looking Back-Looking Forward

Please join us on Saturday, January 3 at Headquarters for a **Happy 100th Birthday Party and Thank You to Ruby Trombetta** for her generous gift to our Branch.



We'll also revisit AAUW San Jose's 100th Birthday from 2009. Look for your picture in the photo display of our 2009 Gala! Buy your copy of *100 Years: 1909-2009 AAUW San Jose* by Branch member Diana Taylor (\$25) and help support the Branch.

Celebrate the beginning of another New Year and renew your commitment to equity and education for girls and women everywhere.

And the next 100 years? Enter the drawing: "Your prediction of the biggest change AAUW San Jose will see in the next 100 years" and win a copy of our branch's 100-year history book. Your prediction will be printed in the February BONFIRE!

Please RSVP so that we can estimate the number of homemade cupcakes that will be needed! To RSVP, you can respond in one of three ways:

Reply to the emailed Evite you will receive

Go to the AAUW San Jose Facebook page, under the "Events" tab and respond

Contact [Peg Carlson-Bowen](#), (408) 978-5784

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

President's Notes



Diane Trombetta

tddtaug@yahoo.com

Yes, YOU can go to Convention 2015! Thanks to funds donated to "leadership development," our Branch is offering stipends of up to \$475 per person to encourage you to attend the AAUW Convention in San Diego, June 18-21. If you have never attended an AAUW Convention, take advantage of this opportunity to participate in exceptional workshops – to improve your leadership and communication skills, to hear inspiring speakers, to find out about the latest AAUW projects and initiatives, and to have a wonderfully good time with fellow San Jose Branch members and members from across the country. Stipends will go first to Board members who have never attended a convention, then to any Branch member. Since we don't know how many members will request stipends, the Board hasn't set a limit on the number to be offered. We may use a first-come-first-served system or have a drawing. Whatever the procedure, I urge you to contact me as soon as possible if you want to attend and to register early. If you register by January 15, the full-convention registration fee is \$449; through March 31 it is \$475, and thereafter \$525 (Saturday night banquet is an extra charge of \$120). To learn about the activities, displays, workshops and speakers on the Convention agenda, go to aauw.org. You'll also find links to group rates on hotels and flights. Of course if you do attend, we'll ask you to tell other Branch members about your experience, maybe in a short Bonfire article or at our next Fall Event.

There are also stipends available to attend the AAUW CA Annual Meeting on April 18 in Manhattan Beach, followed by a Leadership Development Day on April 19. Or perhaps consider attending the Leadership Development Day on March 21 in Northern California. I hope to hear from you!

SAVE THE DATE

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| January 21 | 11 am to 2:30 pm, AAUW Los Gatos/Saratoga Annual Author's Luncheon |
| March 7 | Strong Girls Strong Women Conference |
| March 13 | [evening] - Women in Leadership |
| March 21 | Leadership Development Day, Northern California |
| March 29 | AAUW Morgan Hill <u>Wildflower Run</u> |
| April 18 | AAUW CA Annual Meeting, Manhattan Beach Marriott in Manhattan Beach, CA |
| April 25 | AAUW-San Jose Annual Meeting: Election and Installation of Officers luncheon |
| May 9 | Celebration of Women BBQ |
| June 18-21 | National Convention in San Diego |

AAUW Funds in Action

In February, you will receive the annual AAUW San Jose Funds solicitation letter. Donations directed to education provide many women with educational and research opportunities. Among the 2014-2015 recipients of AAUW Funds are:

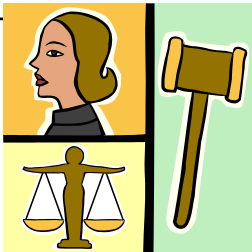
Gabriela Montes (UC-Santa Cruz) studies the properties of stellar winds. This will extend our understanding of massive stars and their impact on their host galaxies. She also collaborates with students from underrepresented groups and encourages them to pursue higher education in science.

Eileen Moore (San Diego State) studies the relationships between alcohol, brain development and behavior. Her current work focuses on the long-term effects of heavy prenatal alcohol exposure on the brain and behavior, as well as the identification of behavioral biomarkers of effect.

Adriana Romero-Olivares (UC-Irvine) is interested in understanding the evolutionary process of microbial communities adapting to climate change. She conducts field studies in an Alaskan forest and hopes to uncover the evolutionary processes leading to adaptation and the implications for the global carbon cycle.

Elizabethe Manzi (Stanford) majored in civil engineering with a minor in international engineering at the University of Maryland. She also competed in NCAA Division I gymnastics, gained research experience in hydrology, and was a part of the engineering honors program. She is attending Stanford in the fall to earn a bachelor's degree in sustainable design and construction, with the goal of pursuing a career in urban development.

By supporting AAUW, you enable more women to pursue exciting research in a wide variety of disciplines. Contact AAUW Funds VP [Sharon Shephard](#) with questions.



AAUW and Legal Advocacy Fund Projects

As we begin this New Year, let us reflect on some of AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) achievements during 2014:

LAF is supporting a gender discrimination case in college athletics, *Moshak v. University of Tennessee*. This case alleges discrimination and unlawful retaliation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

The California State Personnel Board reinstated a 2006 ruling in favor of LAF-supported plaintiffs Paul Thein, Laurel Wartuft, and Michelle Jaurequito. The plaintiffs filed whistleblower retaliation complaints against Feather River Community College, alleging they were terminated after raising concerns about Title IX compliance and discrimination.

The Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD) upheld a ruling in favor of LAF-supported plaintiff Lulu Sun in her gender and race discrimination case against the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. MCAD upheld the 2011 decision, ordering the university to pay damages and conduct anti-discrimination training.

These are just a few of the important legal issues that affect women today. Fair pay, promoting equal women's rights, and protecting choice are all areas that need to be addressed. The Legal Advocacy Fund helps to ensure that these issues are addressed. Early next month, you will be receiving the annual appeal letter asking you to donate to AAUW Funds and LAF. Your donations are crucial to the on-going support of legal cases. Please consider making a donation to LAF. **Happy New Year to all!**

The Building and Properties Committee invites you to ...

suck up those crumbs you drop on the carpet with the new stick vacuum now residing in the dining room. There is a detachable handheld vacuum for the smaller jobs. Keep that carpet clean!

Public Policy

AAUW Issues and New Congress and State Leaders

[Jacqui Gustafarro](#) and [Gloria Leonard](#), Co-Chairs, Public Policy Committee

The 2014 mid-term election and run-offs are over. AAUW Public Policy leaders are analyzing, discussing and communicating with state and branch leaders about the results and (drum roll), we won! AAUW's and friends' voices were heard loud and clear on ballot initiatives on issues including the minimum wage, paid sick days, and equal rights. Here's a summary rundown on how our issues fared in state elections.

AAUW-supported ballot initiatives did well. Measures to increase the minimum wage were [successful](#) in four states and all did so with healthy majorities. We also saw Massachusetts pass a paid sick days [measure](#) pretty handily. And anti-choice initiatives were [rejected](#) in Colorado and North Dakota. This is all very good news and bodes well for AAUW efforts to continue to push our priorities at the state level while gridlock reigns in our nation's capital.

Voters are quite comfortable contradicting themselves — especially Independent voters. AAUW-supported [ballot initiatives](#) overwhelmingly went our way (go team!), yet the electorates in those same states chose senators who strongly oppose the very initiatives the body politic passed. This contradiction seems to be especially true for Independent voters, who will take on even more significance in the 2016 presidential election.

Some barriers were broken, but it was mostly a rough election for women candidates. Thanks to her special-election victory, Rep.-elect Alma Adams of North Carolina will become the [100th woman member](#) of the current 113th Congress. This is the highest number of women in Congress in U.S. history. Despite breaking into three-digit range, it looks like the proportion of women in both the Senate and House will change very little. As for barriers broken, West Virginia and Iowa for the first time [elected](#) women to the U.S. Senate, with Iowa's Joni Ernst also

becoming the first woman elected to Congress from Iowa overall. Gina Raimondo will be Rhode Island's first woman governor. Rep.-elect Elise Stefanik of New York, at age 30, is now the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. New Jersey sent its first African American woman to the House, and Utah's Mia Love is the [first-ever](#) Republican African American woman elected to Congress.

ID laws suppress turnout and voting. A new law requiring photo identification for voters in Texas [prevented](#) some longtime voters from casting their ballots. Voters in North Carolina also [reported](#) trouble related to a new policy, and voters in Georgia reported being unsure their votes had been processed. Laws that require voters to show identification [reduce](#) turnout among African Americans and young voters especially.

The 2016 presidential primary season has officially begun!



Mia Love (Utah) is the first-ever Republican African American woman elected to Congress.

Image by Gage Skidmore



November 2014 AAUW BRIDGE WINNERS

[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

First Monday: Bobbie Eckerman, Pat Mikolic, Joan Benedetti

Second Monday: Wanda Foss, Sue Dietz

Second Thursday: Sandra Savage, Darline Wilson

Second Friday (Duplicate): Bobbie Eckerman, Pat Mikolic

Third Friday: Mary Fitzgerald, Leela Viswanathan, Judy Kumagai

Fourth Tuesday: No Bridge

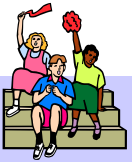
Membership Matters

Wanted: New Member Mentors

How can we assist new members to make the transition from registration to participation in the many opportunities offered by our Branch? Prospective new members come to Open Houses, fill out the form indicating their interests, and receive the BONFIRE and the Resource Handbook and Directory. The next step, actually participating in an Interest Group, Community Action Project (CAP), or standing committee can be more difficult to take.

Are you enthusiastic about the activities you are involved in at the Branch? You could share this enjoyment by helping a new member to take that first step. We are considering starting a Mentor Program which would consist of volunteers from each Interest Group, CAP, or standing committee who will be responsible for contacting new members and inviting them to the next event, arranging to meet them there and introduce them to the other members. These Mentors will also answer any questions our new member may have about AAUW or Branch operations, etc.

If you are interested in getting in on the ground floor of this new effort, please contact one of our Membership VPs: [Kathy Myers](#), [Nanci Eksterowicz](#), [Linda Goldberg](#) or [Marty Glanzman](#).



Be in the Seats!

Members of Title IX/ Sports Equity will be attending the Santa Clara Women's Basketball games at Leavey Center on Thursday, January 8 against University of Portland and Thursday, January 29 against University of San Diego. Both games are at 7 pm. General admission tickets are \$7 (\$5 seniors) at the door. If you would like to carpool please contact [Laura Manthey](#).

Did You Know?

- There's a new report available, commissioned by the National Education Association, AAUW, and the Center for Information Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE), entitled "Closing the Leadership Gap: How Educators Can Help Girls Lead." Go to www.nea.org and type the report title into the Search bar to read and download a copy.
- Treasures Revealed in Headquarters' cabinets: Did you know we have a selection of party decorations for almost any occasion available for your use? Let our Office Manager, Judy Burt, know if you would like decorations for New Year's, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, July 4, Hanukkah, Mardi Gras, an International event or Spring-theme party.



Holiday Boutique Final Tally

[Grace O'Leary](#)

The Holiday Boutique raised \$6,100 for the Local Scholarship Community Action Project. In addition to all the donated items for sale, there were no expenses since signage and publicity were also donated. For the first time, we had the capacity of accepting credit card payments. Thanks to all who donated, shopped, and helped with the physical work of the Boutique.

Forward to next year! We hope our Branch members will donate items of holiday décor they don't want now, before they are packed away again. We have storage space at Headquarters to save the items for next year. You can leave items in the Local Scholarship box in the parlor. Thank you for keeping Local Scholarship on your charitable giving list!

Who's Got Mail? Please RSVP!

If you have provided an email address to AAUW San Jose, you'll begin to receive emailed invitations asking for an RSVP to our general meetings. These are being generated so that we can better estimate attendance and plan for venues, seating and refreshments. You do not need to be on Facebook or a member of Evite to RSVP, so please do respond to help us better plan our programs!

New Communication Tool for Branch Leaders

Branch leaders can now make use of a Master Contact List (MCL) when they want to communicate and/or publicize events with community organizations and others outside of AAUW. This is a communication tool that will be a "work in progress" as updating is a constant feature. Members can contribute new contacts and supply missing information to the current list(s) by contacting Gloria Leonard. A number of members worked on compiling the list, including Claire Muller, SCU intern. We thank everyone. The MCL will be administered by Gloria Leonard who can send the entire list (Excel format) or the piece of it you need. Both mailing and email addresses are provided, with a contact name and title where possible. We need to update our media contact list – can you help? Contact [Gloria Leonard](#) with questions, information or requests.

There's Much Ahead for You!

[Grace O'Leary](#)



Financially Fit for Life is preparing three programs to present this spring. On March 7 at the Strong Girls/Strong Women Conference, a session on managing your money with an emphasis on the many types of credit cards will be presented to the teenagers. Ways to pay for college will be the topic at a session for parents. The focus will be on resources and strategies to secure grants and scholarships.

\$mart Travel is the program for the Sunnyvale-Cupertino AAUW group on April 9. Our Branch members are welcome to attend. Details of time and location will be available later.

The Third Wednesday Program on May 20 will include updates on trusts, trustees, executors of estates and related questions.

The next Financially Fit for Life meeting is Monday, January 12 at 6:30 pm. We welcome more members to join us in developing and refining our programs. For more information please contact [Jean Boyden](#) at 408-268-4872.



AAUW Members Bring Holiday Smiles to Needy Teens

[Jan Giroux](#)

Gifts for Teens wish to thank all the AAUW members who donated cash or items for the teen holiday gift bags this past year. With your generous help, Gifts for Teens filled and distributed 1,275 gift bags, which included a warm hoodie and practical personal items. AAUW members who helped fill the gift bags are thanked as well for your hard work and community spirit.

A special thanks goes to Sacred Heart Community Services food pantry and Whole Foods Market Blossom Hill for their generous donations of snack food items - always a welcome teen favorite - for the gift bags.

AAUW members and the community coming together for a worthwhile cause - an unbeatable team!

Meetings and Events

January 3, Saturday 2 – 4 pm

Looking Back-Looking Forward Birthday Party

See front page

January 5, Monday 7 pm

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

[Bobbie Baker](#)

January 6, Tuesday 1 pm

Local Scholarship Committee

[Grace O'Leary](#)

January 7, Wednesday 7 pm

Board Meeting

Social time from 6:30 pm

[Diane Trombetta](#)

All members welcome!

January 12, Monday 6:30 pm

Financially Fit For Life

[Jean Boyden](#)

January 20, Tuesday 6 pm

Public Policy Committee Meeting

[Jacqui Gustaferra](#)

All Members Welcome

January 21, Wednesday 7 – 8:30 pm

Third Wednesday

Santa Clara Open Space Authority

[Jean Reed](#)

January 26, Monday 9:30 – 11:30 am

Building and Properties Committee

[Linda Guyer](#)

January 26, Monday 5:30 pm

Finance Committee Meeting

[Pat Diamond](#)

January 29, Thursday 7 – 8:30 pm

Open House

[Marty Glanzman](#)

JANUARY INTEREST GROUP 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](#).

January 5, Monday 9:30 – 12:30 pm
First Monday Bridge
[Pat Mikloic](#)

Dienstag 6 Januar 11 Uhr
Deutsche Unterhaltung
bei [Pat Brie](#) RSVP

January 8, Thursday 7:15 pm
Evening Bridge
Member's home
[Bobbie Eckerman](#) 408-266-0560

January 8, Thursday 7 pm
Be In The Seats
Basketball SCU vs. U Portland
SCU Leavey Center
[Laura Manthey](#) to carpool

January 10, Saturday 6:30 pm
Couples Gourmet
Member's home
[Margaret Bard](#) 408-377-6625

January 12, Monday 6 pm
Gourmet Light
Member's home
[Cheryl Markman](#)

January 13, Tuesday 10 am – 1 pm
2nd Tuesday Bridge Group
[Rosemary Busch](#)

January 13, Tuesday 10 – 11:30 am
2nd Tuesday Book Club
A Walk In The Woods by Bill Bryson
Joyce Baker 408-259-8343

Martes 13 Jan a las diez
Conversación española
RSVP [Nan Toledo](#)

January 14, Wednesday 11 am
Art Appreciation
San Jose Museum of Art
[Jan Bartolotta](#)

January 14, Wednesday 7 pm
Wednesday Night Book Group
Orphan Train by Christina Baker Cline
[Laura Manthey](#)

January 15, Thursday 7 pm
Mystery Lovers Book Group
Resurrection Man by Ian Rankin
[Sharon Shephard](#)

January 16, Friday 10 am
Bridge
[Lida Kluzek](#) 408-294-4770

January 16, Friday 6:30 pm
Singles Pot Luch
Jean Wyatt 408-262-3372

January 19, Monday 9:30 am
Exploring World Literature
Le Silence de la Mer or *La Marche a L'Etoile*
By Vercors (Jean Bruller)
[Lucy Poindexter](#)

January 19, Monday 6:30 pm
International Gourmet
Puerto Rico at member's home
RSVP arline@veteska.com

Janvier 20, mardi 11 h
Conversation francaise
[Barbara Snyder](#) 408-293-0109

January 21, Wednesday 11 am – 2:30 pm
AAUW Los Gatos/Saratoga
Annual Author's Luncheon
\$50 Reserve by January 15
Judith Borlase, (408) 358-2262

January 22, Thursday, 9:30 am
Great Decisions
Kick off Book Distribution
[Maureen Curulla](#)

January 22, Thursday 11 am – 1:30 pm
Santa Clara County Pro-Choice Walk
[Myra Orta](#) (650) 968-8476

January 22, Thursday 6:30 pm
Game Night
RSVP by Monday Jan. 19
Sandee Plymire 408-280-799

January 26, Monday, 6:30 pm
Vegetarian Gourmet
Jean Wyatt 408-262-3372

January 27, Tuesday 11:30 am
Lunch Bunch
Three Flames Restaurant
1547 Meridian Avenue
RSVP [Janice Robins](#)

January 27, Tuesday 7:15 pm
Evening Bridge
Member's home
[Bobbie Eckerman](#) 408-266-0560

January 28, Wednesday 10 am - noon
Friends
Topic: Junipero Serra
[Sharon Bouska](#)

January 29, Thursday 7 pm
Be In The Seats
Basketball SCU vs. UCSD
SCU Leavey Center
[Laura Manthey](#) to carpool

January Open House

Come and join us for our Branch Open House, scheduled at Headquarters on January 29 at 7 pm. Introduce your friends and associates to AAUW at an event designed just for them! Interest Group representatives will be there to provide experiences on their activities. AAUW background and informational literature will be featured and the Membership Committee will be available to register new members. We also need our most convincing advocates: our current, enthusiastic AAUW members to share what AAUW can do for us and our community! For additional information please contact [Marty Glanzman](#).

San Jose Branch Bonfire (USPS 857-400) is published monthly except July for \$8.95 per year by AAUW San Jose Branch, 1165 Minnesota Ave., San Jose CA 95125-3324.

Periodicals Postage Paid at San Jose, CA

Postmaster: Send address changes to AAUW San Jose Branch, 1165 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA

San Jose Branch

AAUW Headquarters

1165 Minnesota Avenue

San Jose, CA 95125-3324

Phone: 408-294-2430

PERIODICALS

POSTAGE PAID

President: Diane Trombetta

Bonfire Staff: Editor: Jean Reed

Editorial Staff: Sue Covey, Diane Lane, Linda Rowlett

Distribution: Alma Powell

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 *Established 1909*

Third Wednesday –

Open Space: Why do we need it? Where is it? How Does It Work?

January 21, 7 – 8:30 pm at Headquarters



The Open Space Authority of Santa Clara County conserves the natural environment and connects people to nature by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations. Representatives from the OSA will share photos and tell us how to explore open spaces and trails. Learn how Measure Q funds will help, what's in the 30-Year Greenprint and how public/private partnerships support preservation of nature where we live. Contact [Jean Reed](#).



Empowering Women Since 1881

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