

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE

Empowering Women Since 1881

**AAUW FUNDS - Keep The Vision!**Kathy Bechley

In 1881 Marion Talbot and Ellen Swallow Richards founded the organization we know today as AAUW. At the 25th anniversary meeting in 1907, Richards spoke on "Desirable Tendencies in Professional and Technical Education for Women." In that speech she reflected on the progress that had been made in the previous 25 years, noting that women were going in rapidly increasing numbers "into the newer lines of investigation of pure and applied science." She asked, "To whom shall we look more confidently for leadership in constructive work, for social and national betterment, than to the professionally and technically trained women now coming onto the stage?"*

Ellen Swallow Richards and Marion Talbot had a vision. We are carrying out their vision when we support programs that advocate for women, specifically in cases where women are fighting for equal pay, equal opportunity and an end to sexual harassment.

This month you will be receiving our annual appeal letter asking you to donate to AAUW Funds. Your donations help aid with advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Specific funds for your consideration, are listed below:

- Legal Advocacy Fund – Legal Case Support, Campus Outreach
- Educational Opportunities Fund – Tech Trek, Fellowships
- Public Policy Fund – Government Relations, Civic Engagement
- Eleanor Roosevelt Fund – Pay Gap Inequities, Sexual Harassment, STEM
- Leadership Programs Fund – Campus Action Projects, Elect-Her, \$tart \$mart
- Morgan Hill Wildflower Run Research & Projects Grant Endowment – Support a sister branch and reciprocate their generous support to fund our 100th Anniversary San Jose Centennial American Fellowship



Please donate as generously as possible so that Ellen and Marion's vision can be continued and enhanced. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

**Excerpts from article by Suzanne Gould, AAUW archivist and records manager, "She Earned the First Chemistry Degree Awarded to a Woman (and Then Founded AAUW!)." <http://www.aauw.org/>, December 1, 2014*

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

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire



President's Notes

Diane Trombetta
tddtaug@yahoo.com

In this month's column, I'd like to shine a spotlight on our general meeting in March (Women's History Month) entitled "Celebrate Women Leaders: Local Women Leaders Share Their Stories." Our co-sponsors will be the Global Women's Leadership Network, the Santa Clara County (SCC) Commission on the Status of Women,* and the SCC Office of Women's Policy. We will hear from six panelists, each of whom will share her unique journey toward leader-

ship. These women are leaders in politics, business, sports, global leadership development and youth education. Two of the speakers are also Branch members:

Rose Herrera – Vice Mayor of San Jose

Tanya Monsef Bunker – Dean's Executive Professor and Global Fellows Program Director, Santa Clara University

Monique Lee – Founder of an international garment business; AAUW San Jose member

Lori Durako – Assistant Director for Student Leadership, Santa Clara University

Elizabeth (Libby) Furrow – Student Assistant for Student Leadership, Santa Clara University

Marlene Bjornsrud – Executive Director, All Women's Coaches; Founder, Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative; AAUW San Jose member

This is an impressive group, so impressive, in fact, that we expect to fill the Isaac Newton Center Auditorium at the County Office Building. This program will provide a rare opportunity for women from different organizations to network and connect; it will provide information we all need to promote and support women leaders in our communities.

We all know there is a gender gap in leadership. Much is written about why there are fewer women leaders than there should be or than are needed. We rarely hear the personal stories of women who defy the odds and become leaders and teachers of future leaders. What personal and professional obstacles did they overcome and do they continue to face? What internal conflicts did they need to resolve before they were able to take on a leadership role? What challenges do they anticipate going forward? What skills do they believe are critical for the next generation of women leaders? Do their experiences confirm the research on the leadership gender gap? Most importantly, what specific actions can you and I take to encourage and support women to take on leadership roles?

I hope many of you will be in the audience to hear these fascinating women talk about their paths to leadership. Maybe some of you will be inspired to step up to a leadership position in the Branch. I expect we will all be inspired to promote and support women who aspire to lead.

**confirmation pending as of this printing*

Sisters In Crime

February brings the highly anticipated "Sisters in Crime" program to town. The meeting is slated for February 12 at 7 pm at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, Soule Hall, 728 W. Fremont Avenue. There will be six guest authors who will discuss their books. The event is a fundraiser for AAUW Saratoga/Sunnyvale Legal Advocacy Fund. A \$10 donation will be collected at the door. Contact [Jodi Gordon](mailto:jodi.gordon@aauw.org) (408-739-2718).



Thank you to all of you who came to my mother's 100th-birthday party and gave or sent birthday cards. We loved reading each one of them and will keep them always.

Diane Trombetta

Did you know?

The County of Santa Clara has awarded AAUW San Jose a Certificate of Commendation which states, "Supervisor Mike Wasserman would like to recognize AAUW SJ in honor of your tireless philanthropic work on behalf of the residents of Santa Clara County in 2014." We should feel extremely proud of these awards and be motivated to continue the work, which is recognized because it is making a difference!

Board Matters

Actions taken at the January 7 Board Meeting

- The decision was made to organize a Branch all-member potluck as our May program (date to be confirmed). All 17 Board members will help to plan and put on the event.
- The Board approved a new sign for the front of Headquarters (to be designed), and to proceed with major tree cleanup, pruning, and mulching around the building.
- Emily Dods, a new Branch member, proposed the formation of a Public Relations and Outreach Committee and volunteered to be its Chair. Jan McCann, also a new member, volunteered to work with Emily and focus on media relations. The Board enthusiastically approved the formation of this committee and asks interested members to join Emily and Jan on the committee.
- A new Interest Group, Spanish Conversation, was approved. If *habla español* you may want to join the group on the second Tuesday of every month at 10 am.

Contact nantoledo@comcast.net if you have a *pregunta*.

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of honorary life member **Mary Zane Aumack**. Mary Zane joined AAUW in 1957 when she moved to San Jose as a young wife. She had four children and put in "parent hours" at the Mulberry School founded in 1963 by branch members who wanted a school where parents were active participants in their child's education. Along with being a skilled bridge player Mary Zane also found time to support many charitable causes. She will be remembered by many of our members.



A Little AAUW History: A Lasting Legacy from One Gram of Radium

In 1920, Marie Curie, a future Nobel Prize-winning scientist, received contributions from American women toward the purchase of one gram of radium in order to continue her research. The San Jose Branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (ACA), organized in 1909, was one of the donors.

In 1921, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) was formed through a merger of the ACA and the Southern Association of College Women. A thank you note from Marie Curie is included in our Branch archives. Curie's daughter later returned a portion of unused money to AAUW, which used it to create the endowment that funds the ongoing Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship.



Strong Girls, Strong Women

Saturday,
March 7, 2015
8:00am – 1:30pm
School of Arts & Culture
@ Mexican Heritage Plaza
1700 Alum Rock Ave, San Jose

If you want to connect in a powerful way with a daughter, granddaughter, niece or neighbor, this conference is for you! AAUW San Jose and the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy are co-presenting the third annual "Strong Girls, Strong Women" leadership conference for high school girls and their advocates. The conference empowers girls and the adults who care for them to be to be strong, confident and involved members of their communities. Because we want every woman and girl to be able to attend, the "Strong Girls, Strong Women" conference is free to all. Come, and bring your family and friends for an amazing experience.

"Strong Girls, Strong Women" has been recognized by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the California Legislature, and named a Top Ten Program by AAUW California. This year's conference includes workshops on cyber safety, finances for teens, dating violence, body image, preparing healthy meals, communication skills and more. Breakfast and lunch are served free of charge. Luncheon speakers feature local women and girls who are leaders in San Jose, including an AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship winner. Branch members of Financially Fit for Life (FFFL) will once again provide workshops on finances for teens. All members and their families and friends are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you'd like the fun of helping on the day of the event, please contact [Louise Persson](#).

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Welcome New Members

[Claire Compodonico](#)

CONNIE WOLFF received her BA in Clothing and Textiles and her MBA from SJSU. Now retired, she was a manager in human resources for many years. She was employed by General Electric, United Technologies, Xilinx and the City of San Jose. She has volunteered at the Clothes Closet and San Jose Animal Shelter. Barbara Bettencourt referred Connie to our Branch.

Up and Running!

[Laura Manthey](#), Title IX/Sports Equity

We invite you to join us for wine (got your attention!), snacks, sharing and laughter. Bring your high school yearbook or a photo of girls in sports from your high school era. Share a photo of your daughter, granddaughter, niece or neighbor participating in sports. Let's talk about how Title IX/Sports Equity can become relevant to you and also represent our Branch. If nothing else, raise a glass to good times with good women! We will meet at Headquarters on Wednesday, February 11, from 5:30-6:45 pm.



Gifts for Teens –

Keeping the Holiday Spirit Alive All Year

[Jan Giroux](#)

The saying "It takes a village" really does apply to Gifts for Teens. The year-long Community Action Project came to a successful end with our goal being reached to provide 1,380 gift bags to needy teens. From local high school clothing drives, to knitting clubs, to local businesses, Gifts for Teens mobilized a generous community to help fill our bags with donated items. Our holiday gift bags are seen as an incentive that can bring needy and homeless teens into the agencies where they can access help and services.

Gifts for Teens committee members are already working on grant proposal writing, purchasing and organizing for 2015. With AAUW members, volunteers and community involvement, we will succeed again.

PUBLIC POLICY

“Revving” the Public Policy Engines for 2015 Activism

[Jacqui Gustaferry](#) and [Gloria Leonard](#)

With input from branch members throughout California and approval of the Public Policy Committee of AAUW-CA, the 2015-2017 Public Policy Priorities of AAUW-CA will be published in the next issue of “Perspective” at the end of February. Members will vote to approve the Biennial Action Priorities at the Annual Meeting on April 18 in Southern California. The current Public Policy Program can be found at www.aauw-ca.org/PublicPolicy.

The framework for AAUW-CA’s activism is formulated within the Public Policy Action Priorities, and will be put into action as the California legislature prepares for the next session in Sacramento. Hearings are being held by legislators, lobbyists and activists (including AAUW-CA and its partners) about 2015 legislation and the State budget. By the beginning of January, approximately 200 bills had been submitted, but that number is expected to grow to between 2,000 and 3,000 bills by the submission deadline at the end of February. Expected to be of interest and concern to our members (watch for Action Alerts):

Environmental issues, e.g., fracking

School funding, e.g., UC tuition increase

Title IX compliance on high school and college campuses

Budget spending, e.g., restoring funding to the tattered safety net (20% of California’s children live in poverty)

Did you know?

We now have the results of the random drawing of ideas about AAUW’s future that was conducted at the 100th Birthday Party for Ruby Trombetta last month. According to our astute Branch clairvoyants, the following changes will occur in the next 100 years at AAUW San Jose: AAUW San Jose will catch up with technology and have hovercrafts to take us to meetings (Julie Mayeda). We will be recognized by the US President for outstanding volunteerism (Sue Covey). AAUW San Jose membership will be representative of all races, and we will have a men’s auxiliary (June Boudreau). Last, but not least, AAUW San Jose members will celebrate – FINALLY – Equal Pay! (Peg Carlson-Bowen). It’s great to know we have such a bright future.

Did you know?

AAUW San Jose’s Neighbors Helping Neighbors has been honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Silicon Valley Chapter, as “Distinguished Volunteer Fundraiser 2014” for philanthropic excellence on behalf of InnVision Shelter Network.

Did you know?

Our Branch has property and liability insurance through AAUW-CA. However, if someone is injured at an AAUW activity held at a member’s personal residence, AAUW insurance is secondary to the member’s personal insurance. Plus, AAUW insurance does NOT cover vehicle accidents. Before hosting an AAUW activity in your home or using your car to transport someone to or from an AAUW activity, check your Home and Auto insurance policies. Be prudent - make sure you have sufficient Personal Liability and Bodily Injury insurance to shield your assets from lawsuits.

Did you know?

Coming this spring: Locks on all doors at Headquarters will be changed and new keys issued to those who require them. Watch for details from by the Building and Properties Committee in the near future.



The Grateful Garment Project

[Marilyn Jackson](#) for Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Every 3 seconds, someone is sexually assaulted in the US. When sexual assault victims undergo a Sexual Assault Response Team exam (SART - aka "rape kit") they are often asked to surrender their clothing as evidence, leaving them with nothing to wear home. This is where The Grateful Garment Project comes in. It provides Sexual Assault Service Providers throughout California with new clothing and other items to facilitate the healing process and restore dignity to the victims during this traumatic experience and process.

Lisa Blanchard, founder and Executive Director of The Grateful Garment Project tells us that last year nearly 20,000 items were donated to 47 SART locations throughout California, about one quarter of the items from individual donors like you. Help is needed to process the items. Lisa, who is a Branch member, needs help on Tuesdays from 1 to 4 pm or Thursdays from 9 am to noon. The office is at 1777 Hamilton Avenue (#2003) in San Jose. She asks that you call her at 408-674-5744 so she knows to expect you. It is guaranteed that you will be busy!

Of course, financial donations are always needed. If you have not yet signed up to use smile.amazon.com, please consider using it to support The Grateful Garment Project. There is no cost to you and 0.5% of eligible purchases will automatically be donated to the charity you select when you sign up.

A Challenging Book

[Laura Manthey](#), Title IX/Sports Equity

I highly recommend *In My Skin: My Life On and Off the Basketball Court* by Brittney Griner with Sue Hovey. As a fan of Stanford Women's Basketball, I spent four years putting down this 6'8" young woman who was the focus of every game she played for Baylor University. This book changed nearly everything I thought about this remarkable person, and challenged me to look at the judgments I had made and completely revise my opinion of her. Throughout her short life, Brittney has dealt with prejudice of the worst kind and faced adversity almost daily, yet she retains a wonderful sense of humor and is forgiving of those who made her life so difficult.



December 2014 AAUW Bridge Winners

[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

First Monday: Pat Mikolic, Jackie Chase, Pat Seaman

Second Monday: Leela Viswanathan, Judy Kumagai, Rosemary Busch

Third Thursday: Barbara Shandera, Bobbie Eckerman, Sandra Savage

Second Friday (Duplicate): Pat Mikolic, Bobbie Eckerman, Barbara Shandera

Third Friday: Bobbie Eckerman, Mary Fitzgerald

Fourth Tuesday: No Bridge

Share Your Love for Sports Day!

[Laura Manthey](#)

Join BASWI (Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative) girls and Branch members and friends at the Santa Clara Women's Basketball game on February 14 at 2 pm. The game against USF is at Leavey Center on the Santa Clara campus. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and youth. BAWSI girls, grades 3 to 5, always bring great spirit and energy to the games they attend. A good time will be had by all!

Did you know?

Headquarters has a new garbage service that does all sorting of materials. Even though it may seem odd, you can put garbage along with recycle items into one can. Please empty all waste containers into the Republic can beside the back porch. The can needs to be moved to the street on Monday night for Tuesday pick up.

Attention Cooks!

Couples Gourmet is looking for a couple who enjoys talking, eating and thinking about food as well as preparing it. Each couple hosts the group in their home twice a year. The host plans the menu and assigns recipes to the rest of the group. Some people like to test the recipes in advance, but more of us like to try out new recipes that are suitable for a group, not just the two we normally cook for. We limit the group to a maximum of six couples, but sometimes we are not all able to come so the group may be only three or four couples. I know we have a lot of superb cooks in this branch since I sample the food at the pot lucks! Won't you join our group? We love fresh ideas. Please email [Margaret Bard](#) or call 408-377-6625.

FEBRUARY 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](#).

February 2, Monday 9:30 – 12:30 pm
First Monday Bridge
[Pat Mikloic](#)

3 Februar Dienstag 11 Uhr
Deutsche Unterhaltung
Barbara Snyder
bei [Barbara Snyder](#) RSVP

February 9, Monday 10 am – 1pm
2nd Monday Bridge Group
[Rosemary Busch](#)

February 10, Tuesday 10 – 11:30 am
2nd Tuesday Book Club
[My Name is Mary Sutter](#) Olivera
Joyce Baker 408-259-8343

10 Feb Martes a las diez
Conversación española
RSVP a [Nan Toledo](#)

February 11, Wednesday
Art Appreciation
Cantor Museum of Art
Pop Art from the Anderson Collection
Organizer [Lida Kluzek](#)

February 11, Wednesday 5:30 – 6:45 pm
Supper with Sports Equity
[Laura Manthey](#)

February 11, Wednesday 7 pm
Wednesday Evening Book Discussion
[City of Thieves](#) by David Benoiff
[Laura Manthey](#)

February 12, Thursday 9:30 am
Great Decisions
[Maureen Curulla](#)

February 12, Thursday 7 pm
Sisters In Crime
See article
[Jodi Gordon](#) 408-739-2718

February 14, Saturday 2 pm
Be In The Seats
SCU vs USF Basketball at Leavey Center
[Laura Manthey](#)

February 14, Saturday 6:30 pm
Couples Gourmet
Member's home
RSVP [Margaret Bard](#) 408-377-6625

February 16, Monday 9:30 am
Exploring World Litterature
[Black Count](#) by Tom Reiss
[Lucy Poindexter](#)

February 16, Monday 6:30 pm
International Gourmet: Hungary
Member's home
RSVP [Arlene Veteska](#)

17 Fév Mardi à 11 heures
Conversation français
chez [Monique Lee](#) RSVP

February 19, Thursday 7 pm
Mystery Lovers Book Group
[The Bottoms](#) by Joe R. Lansdale
[Sharon Shephard](#)

February 20, Friday 10 am
Bridge
[Lida Kluzek](#) 408-294-4770

February 20, Friday 6:30 pm
Singles Potluck HQ
Jean Wyatt 408-262-3372

February 24, Tuesday 11:30 am
Lunch Bunch
Edna Ray Chinese Restaurant
1181 Lincoln Ave San Jose 95125
RSVP [Ruth Granfors](#)

February 24, Tuesday 7 – 8:30 pm
Great Decisions
Privacy in the Digital Age
[Jan Palajac](#)

February 24, Tuesday 7:15 pm
Evening Bridge
Member's home
[Bobbie Eckerman](#) 408-266-0560

February 26, Thursday 9:30 am
Great Decisions
Human Trafficking in the 21st century
[Maureen Curulla](#)

February 26, Thursday 6:30 pm
Vegetarian Gourmet Potluck
Jean Wyatt 408-262-3372

Meetings and Events

February 2, Monday 7 pm
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
[Bobbie Baker](#)

February 4, Wednesday 7 pm
Board Meeting
Social Time from 6:30
[Diane Trombetta](#)
All Members Welcome

February 9, Monday 1 pm
Financially Fit For Life
[Jean Boyden](#)

February 17, Tuesday 1 pm
Local Scholarship Committee
[Grace O'Leary](#)

February 17, Tuesday 6 pm
Public Policy Committee
[Jacqueline Gustaferrero](#)
All Members Welcome

February 23, Monday 9:30 – 11:30
Building & Properties Committee
[Linda Guyer](#)

February 23, Monday 5:30 pm
Finance Committee Meeting
[Pat Diamond](#)

Coming up!

March 7, Saturday 8 am – 1:30 pm
Strong Girls, Strong Women
Girls Leadership Conference
Mexican Heritage Plaza
1700 Alum Rock Ave. SJ
[Louise Persson](#)
Celebrate Women Leaders:
Local Women Leaders
Share Their Stories

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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.

San Jose Branch

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Phone: 408-294-2430

PERIODICALS

POSTAGE PAID

AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

March 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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!!!

**Celebrate Women Leaders:
Local Women Leaders Share Their Stories**

Friday, March 13, 6:30-8:30 pm
Isaac Newton Senter Auditorium, County
Office Bldg., 70 West Hedding Street, San
Jose

Come and celebrate Women's History Month with AAUW San Jose. Spend an evening with a group of outstanding local women leaders who will share their stories, the challenges they have faced and lessons they have learned on their paths to leadership. Learn how you can promote women's leadership and can connect with today's and tomorrow's women leaders. Be inspired to reach your own leadership goals!

Empowering Women Since 1881



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