

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE**Empowering Women Since 1881****You Have Been Named An Executor? Now What?**

Wednesday May 20
7 pm at Headquarters

Acting as the administrator of an estate is both an honor and a responsibility. On the other side of that coin, selecting an administrator for your estate is sometimes a difficult decision. Financially Fit For Life, with the help of an estate planning attorney from the San Jose law firm Hoge Fenton, will present a discussion of the role of an estate administrator, both executors and trustees.

The first goal of the presentation is to help you understand the factors to be considered in selecting an administrator and also what information must be provided so that the administrator can do a good job. The second goal of the presentation is to help the person who has agreed to be an administrator understand what she should do to prepare for this duty. We hope you will join us for this practical discussion of an issue we all must confront. Contact [Sandra Savage](#) with questions.



Financially Fit For Life, or FFFL, has a Money Matter\$ program to young women. "Paying for College" for the parents of college bound students was successfully presented at Strong Girls Initiative Housing project, another version of

been active this year in presenting our Mon-We also developed a new program on college bound students. This program was Strong Women. Joining the Family Support-Money Matter\$, is scheduled for the fall.

We are always looking for new venues at which to present our programs in accordance with our mission to "Provide women and girls with the knowledge, skill and confidence to be financially fit for life." If you have suggestions for groups who would be interested in hearing one of our programs, please contact Jean Boyden. If you are interested in personal money management and willing to work hard, learn a lot and share that knowledge with others, please join our monthly meetings on second Mondays at 1:30 pm at Headquarters. If you have only a limited amount of time to give or aren't available for our meetings, we can work around your schedule. Contact [Jean Boyden](#) (408-268-4872) to discuss the options.



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



President's Notes

Diane Trombetta

This month, I'd like to explore the issue of attendance at Branch programs. Our programs this past fiscal year have not generated the attendance we hoped for, given the many hours invested in organizing and presenting them. We have tried different types of programs, from a panel featuring exceptional women leaders at a large public venue to a holiday social with refreshments at Headquarters to a meeting which featured the work of our own Community Action Projects and the Strong Girls Strong Women conference. We've experimented with times and days of the week by scheduling programs on Friday evenings (one of them with wine!) instead of the more common Saturday morning. Recently we sent out an online survey to gauge attendance for an educational program in May featuring an organization that builds schools for children in Afghanistan; we received few responses. I am told that attendance is



a problem throughout the nonprofit world but I like to think that AAUW San Jose is not just "any" nonprofit. The Branch's mission (and specifically the Board's) includes the duty to provide programs which advance the AAUW mission—in other words, that appeal to, educate and motivate our members.

In my final President's column in June, I'll review the many ways our Branch has grown and flourished this past year. In the meantime, I would like your help in exploring how we might do a better job of fulfilling Goal 3 of our Strategic Plan: "AAUW San Jose will advance the AAUW Mission and the Branch Vision through its programs and activities." Did we just happen to choose dates and times for programs when you were not available? Or would you have attended if the topic or the type of program had been different? Should we ask for RSVPs and plan the program (and book the venue) only after we know how many will attend? Should we poll members during the summer before planning the year's general meetings? Please email me with your thoughts, and I will pass them on to our new 2015-16 Board of Directors. Thank you!

BOARD MATTERS

- Board approved the Special Committee recommendation to hire AAUW Site Resources (AAUW National) to set up and manage our website at a cost not to exceed \$200 per year.

February 2015 AAUW Bridge Winners

First Monday:

Pat Seaman, Pat Mikolic, Joan Benedetti

Second Monday:

Pat Mikolic, Leela Viswanathan, Lida Kluzek,

Second Thursday: No Bridge

Second Friday (Duplicate):

Lida Kluzek, Pat Mikolic, Kennette Shannon

Third Friday:

Judy Kumagai, Jackie Chase, Lois Robinson

Fourth Tuesday:

Bobbie Eckerman, Virginia Beck, Judy Kumagai

March 2015 AAUW Bridge Winners

First Monday:

Lida Kluzek, Bobbie Eckerman

Second Monday:

Bobbie Eckerman, Mary Braley, Pat Mikolic

Second Thursday:

Darline Wilson, Sue Dietz

Second Friday: (Duplicate)

Darline Wilson, Mary Fitzgerald

Third Friday:

Lida Kluzek, Bobbie Eckerman, Rosemary Busch

Fourth Tuesday:

Barbara Shandera, Patty Baggese, Judy Kumagi

What is Pickleball?

[Marilyn Jackson](#) for Sports Equity

Pickleball is a paddle sport created for all ages and skill levels. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. Come see what competitive seniors do with this game when we attend the Bay Area Senior Games on May 1 at the Milpitas Sports Center. Carpool from Headquarters at 9:30 am. After the tournament, we'll find lunch in the area before heading home.



South Bay's Got That Giving Feeling!

[Elaine Benoit](#) for Gifts For Teens

[Grace O'Leary](#) for Local Scholarship



"It means so much that someone cared enough to put the holiday bag together *just for me!*" reports a homeless teenager. This is how AAUW-San Jose, through your generosity to Gifts For Teens, meaningfully impacts the lives of local poor and homeless teens. College transfer women also benefit greatly from your personal donations to Local Scholarship.

May 5, Cinco de Mayo, is the "Silicon Valley Gives" 24-hour online donation event that is sweeping the South Bay! Both Local Scholarship and Gifts For Teens are participating in the SVGives community-wide effort to raise funds. Why donate online? Because when you give, your donation may be matched so it is effectively doubled! Online donations can be made on May 5 from midnight to midnight, anytime during the 24 hours. [Make your contribution to GFT](#) using either a credit/debit card or PayPal. Or, with a smart phone: svgives.razoo.com and click on Teens.

For Local Scholarship, members and friends can make donations online anytime, but we especially want to encourage donations on May 5 for the potential of dollar-for-dollar matching funds. [Donate at Local Scholarship.](#)

Big GFT news! AAUW Gifts For Teens is one of five local charities that has been chosen by Whole Foods' Blossom Hill store to share our story, live, on May 5. This event will provide amazing exposure that showcases AAUW's project to help teens. There will be a booth hosted by SVGives to cheerlead and to help spread the word about charitable programs, while also giving Whole Foods customers the flexibility to donate in person throughout the day. Whole Foods is also hosting the NBC news crew for the entire day, so they will be on site filming and helping spread the word about Gifts For Teens. We will be filmed and interviewed by NBC for live sound bites throughout the day. Come by the store to share in the exciting festivities!

TECH TREK

Santa Clara County Ice Cream Social

Sunday, May 31, 1-3 pm, Cambrian Public Library

Dorm Moms Elaine Benoit and Jane Guinther are excited to share Tech Trek with the girls, watching their light bulbs glow brighter with each new camp experience. AAUW members are invited to meet our scholarship recipients and camp director at the Santa Clara County Ice Cream Social on Sunday, May 31, from 1-3 pm at the Cambrian Public Library. Members interested in visiting Stanford camp, seeing our girls in action and touring classes can attend camp on Thursday, July 16, from 8:30 am - noon. RSVP to [Jane Guinther](#).

Stanford Tech Trek Camp, July 12 - 18

March was an exciting month for Tech Trek teams. Our San Jose Branch team reviewed 14 applications, recommendations from 7th grade girls applying for our eight scholarships. San Jose members Edna Robison, Cheryl dermaier, Elaine Benoit and Jane Guinther formed the this year. Students from Burnett (northside), Sylvandale of Grace (downtown) middle schools will be representing donations from San Jose members and the community changing experience for many of these girls. During the listened to their stories filled with youthful energy, vision, and a passion for STEM learning. Some have had few opportunities to travel much beyond San Jose, let alone the vast international Stanford campus!



throughout California. essays, and teacher rec-Stanford Tech Trek Markman, Sharon Nie-Tech Trek review team (eastside), and Our Lady our Branch. Generous are providing a life-interview sessions, we

One of our former students sat in on an interview session. This quiet, poised, smiling young woman's parting comment to her classmates was, "I've never felt such a space of women power (as I did at Tech Trek). I didn't realize how much potential I had to change not only myself, but the world." For a week, our girls will live the life of a college student in a dorm with a roommate, navigating the college cafeteria serving 1,000 students every meal, attending classes across the expansive Stanford campus, meeting peers who share the same goals, and experiencing ideas with people beyond their imaginations.

PUBLIC POLICY

Women's Economic Empowerment Means a Stronger California

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

State and community advocates, including AAUW-CA, are joining with elected leaders in a call for an agenda that empowers women and brings equality to the state's workplace. Together advocates are supporting multiple policy actions that:

- Reduce poverty and build assets
- Expand access to affordable, quality early childhood care and education
- Ensure fair pay and job opportunities
- Support working families

A new policy paper issued by the Stronger California Advocates Network states that women comprise almost half the workforce in California and are often the primary income earners. It also highlights that California's recovery from the recession of 2007-2008 was due in large part to women's contributions to the workforce. However, women are too often unable to secure full-time employment due to lack of decent child care and inflexible, unpredictable schedules, and are much more likely to be employed at jobs that pay minimum wage or less.

The Stronger California Advocates Network hopes to remedy these conditions and envisions California as a place where women can afford to care for themselves and their children, earn a fair living wage and advance themselves through expanded work opportunities.

Through passage of proposed legislation like the Fair Pay Act-SB 358, the Equal Pay for Equal Work Act of 2015-AB 1354, and the Earn and Learn Bill, California can set the standard for the rest of the country. Why California? It is the 8th largest economy in the world and it is also where 12% of America's women live. For more information check out [Stronger California](#) and the key legislation being proposed in 2015.

From the Archives - 1940's

[Marilyn Jackson](#), Archive Committee

War became a harsh reality for Americans after December 7, 1941 and AAUW members were asked to support the war effort. Several AAUW "sections" were devoted to wartime community projects and services such as USO work, Red Cross, Rationing, and Survey Work. Members of the San Jose Branch took training for six weeks to be part of the Red Cross Speakers Bureau for which they received Bay Area commendation. Branch members served on the Defense Council and on the Board of Education.

In 1944-45, Rae Wirtz was our AAUW San Jose President and AAUW conventions were cancelled because of the war although local meetings continued. Branch membership was 201, dues were \$5 per year, and average attendance at general meetings was 85 people who paid \$1.40 for lunches and \$2.50 for dinner meetings. The war ended but many activities continued, including our sponsorship of USO dances every Tuesday.



Cancellation Notice - Trust In Education Event

[Peg Carlson Bowen](#)

In order to assess what size facility we would need for our May program, an online survey was sent to members who provide an email address. Responses indicated very low attendance due to schedule conflicts with vacations and graduations, so we have decided to cancel this program. Also indicated was a desire for varied programs, noting that we featured several Afghanistan-related programs in the recent past. To help improve programming, what would you like to see in programming? Let me know and I'll compile the suggestions and provide those to next year's Program VP. Thanks for your help in advance!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Annual Membership Renewal Time

During the first week of May, you will receive your AAUW San Jose Membership Renewal forms for 2015-16. It is very important that you return your dues payment BEFORE JUNE 1 to allow time for processing. You may bring your renewal forms to Headquarters and place in the "RENEWALS" box on the office desk. If you prefer, you may mail them in the enclosed return envelope to Headquarters.

For most members, the dues breakdown is: AAUW National (\$49 for most regular, single-branch members), AAUW California (\$20), San Jose Branch (\$25 + \$1 to AAUW Funds), for a total of \$95. When writing your dues check, please consider "rounding up" to \$100 by adding \$5 on the "Round-up" line. These donations are an easy way to ensure that the Branch has adequate funds to continue its many excellent programs. Please note that while donations to ISPF-AAUW and AAUW Funds are tax deductible, donations to the Branch are not tax deductible. Contact [Nanci Eksterowicz](#) with questions.

New Members

[Claire Campodonico](#)

[SALLY PHILLIPS](#), a San Jose resident, was referred to our Branch by Rise Berry. Sally earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Oregon. After a fulfilling career, Sally is now semi-retired. She still works part-time in the field of accounting.

[TERESA FOLAN](#) joined at the January Open House. She was referred to our Branch by Sally Phillips. Teresa resides in Campbell. She graduated from San Jose State University with a BS in Nursing. She was employed by Santa Clara County for 32 years as a nursing assistant, a registered nurse and finally as a public health nurse. She retired three years ago.

[ELAINE PETERSON](#) was referred to our Branch by Esther Ludlow. Elaine earned her BA in Philosophy from Rosary College near Chicago and her BS in Secondary Education from Southern Illinois University. She continued her studies at Southern Illinois University, acquiring an MS in Counselor Education. For more than 20 years, Elaine worked as a high school counselor in Indiana and Chicago. Moving to California, she worked for 12 years in Human Resources, starting as an assistant and working into a director position. She retired in 2010.

[ELISSA STRAUSS](#) was born in Los Angeles and grew up there. She earned her BA in History from the University of California-Los Angeles and took Art Management classes at Golden State University. She has 30 years of experience in fundraising, marketing and public relations for performing and visual arts organizations.

Five local scholarship recipients were awarded free memberships. All are studying at San Jose State University. Their names and fields of study are:

Vanessa Aldaco - Behavioral Science

Andrea Lopez - Education

Elizabeth Mellow - Psychology and Occupational Therapy

Maria Pina-Carrasco - Business and Marketing

Viviana Tacussis Cavada - Aerospace Engineering



Letters? More are Definitely Better

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



Have you ever looked at the sports section of your paper and wondered if there are any female athletes or athletic events in our area? If one were to rely solely on the newspaper for coverage of women and girls in sports ... well ... you would miss a lot! When you read an article about an upcoming game, a special female athlete, a girl's or women's game won or lost, write to the author of the article and to the editor of the sports section. I recently commended Elliott Almond of the Mercury News for his coverage of a women's basketball game. He immediately wrote me back and we had an interesting conversation. I also wrote to the editor of the sports section and, although I did not receive a response, I will write again, asking for more coverage or thanking him for well-placed and informative articles. Every letter counts and your short email can make a big difference in the coverage a paper provides!

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at Headquarters.
Meetings are open to all members. ★ Events are open to the public.

[Vote AAUW-CA](#) thru May 8

May 4, Monday
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Project Linus 6:30 pm
Business meeting 7:15 pm
[Bobbie Baker](#)

May 5, Tuesday, 24 hours
★ **Silicon Valley Gives**
On-line donations for:
[Gifts for Teens](#) and
[Local Scholarships](#)
See article

May 6, Wednesday 7 pm
Board Meeting
Social Time from 6:30
[Diane Trombetta](#)

May 11, Monday 1:30pm
Financially Fit For Life
[Jean Boyden](#)

May 13, Wednesday 6-6:50 pm
Title IX/Sports Equity
[Laura Manthey](#)

May 19, Tuesday 6 pm
Public Policy Committee
[Gloria Leonard](#)

May 20, Wednesday 7-8:30 pm
★ **Third Wednesday Program**
You are an Executor. Now What?
See Front Page
[Sandra Savage](#)

May 31, Sunday 1-3 PM
Tech Trek Ice Cream Social
Cambrian Public Library
1780 Hillsdale Avenue
RSVP [Jane Guinther](#)

June 1, Monday 9:30–11:30 am
Building and Properties Committee
Date changed due to Memorial Day
Member's home
[Linda Guyer](#)

June 3, Wednesday 6 – 8:30 pm
Joint Board Meeting
Viva Restaurant, Los Gatos
Send \$32 check by May 29 to:
[Risë Berry](#), 460 Golfview Dr, San Jose 95127

REMINDERS

[Vote AAUW National](#) until June 19.
Click on the VOTE button. Enter your member ID, then click SEARCH. Enter your voter PIN. Review the [candidates](#) and [ballot issues](#) in your Spring/Summer *Outlook* magazine. Call [800-326-2289](#) with questions.

[Vote AAUW-CA](#) through [May 8](#) after reviewing [candidates and issues](#). Contact [Harriet Tower](#) if you have questions about the voting process.



AAUW Funds/LAF Donations Update

[Sharon Shephard](#)

Thanks to those members who generously responded to our annual AAUW Funds/LAF solicitation letter. Your donations to AAUW Funds/LAF support AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research by providing much-needed funding at the national level for programs that impact women across the US and beyond. In 2013, AAUW Funds received \$3.7 million in support, \$521,088 of which came from California. If you have not yet contributed, dues renewal in May offers another easy opportunity. AAUW San Jose has a history of being very generous. Let's continue the tradition!



AAUW Participates in White House Launch of International Girls Education Initiative

In recognition of the profound positive impact of educating girls, the White House partnered with the Peace Corps, USAID, and other organizations to launch [Let Girls Learn](#), a new initiative aimed at expanding existing efforts on international girls' education to reach adolescent girls. Gloria Blackwell, AAUW Vice President of Fellowships, Grants, and Global Programs, attended the White House launch event. Research has consistently shown that additional education for girls is correlated with lower maternal mortality and infant mortality rates, lower rates of HIV/AIDS, and other improvements in a country's and its people's well-being.

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

MAY 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.

INTEREST GROUPS

Weekend Walkers meets most Saturdays and Sundays at 8 am for an hour long walk on the Los Gatos Creek Trail. To receive weekly emails about walks, contact [Jean Reed](#)

AAUW San Jose has many active Bridge groups. Contact [Bobbie Eckerman](#) if interested in joining or being added to a list of substitutes.

May 1, Friday 9:30 am – 2 pm

Sports Equity Pickleball

Bay Area Senior Games

Milpitas Sports Center

See article

[Marilyn Jackson](#)

May 4, Monday 9:30 am

Bridge

[Pat Mikolic](#) RSVP

Dienstag 5 Mai um 11 Uhr

Deutsche Unterhaltung

RSVP bei [Barbara Snyder](#)

May 9, Saturday 8:45 am

Weekend Walkers

Cañada del Oro

[Jean Reed](#)

May 9, Saturday 6:30 pm

Couples Gourmet

Member's home

[Margaret Bard](#) 408-377-6625

May 11, Monday 10 am

Bridge

[Rosemary Busch](#) RSVP

May 11, Monday 6 pm

Gourmet Light

Member's home

[Cheryl Markman](#)

May 12, Tuesday 10–11:30 am

2nd Tuesday Book Group

Silicon Valley Reads

Joyce Baker 408-259-8343

Martes 12 Mayo a las diez

Conversación española

RSVP a [Nan Toledo](#)

May 13, Wednesday

Art Appreciation

Filoli Botanical Art Exhibition

Carpool from HQ at 8:45 am

RSVP [Barbara Van Arsdale](#)

May 13, Wednesday 7 pm

Wednesday Evening Book Group

The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin

[Laura Manthey](#)

May 14, Thursday 9:30 am

Great Decisions

Russia and the New Abroad

[Maureen Curulla](#)

May 15, Friday 6:30 pm

Singles Potluck

Jean Wyatt 408-262-3372

May 18, Monday 9:30 am

Exploring World Literature

Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky

[Lucy Poindexter](#)

May 18, Monday 6:30 pm

International Gourmet

Member's home

[Arline Veteska](#)

Mardi 19 Mai à 11 heures

Conversation français

chez [Barbara Snyder](#) RSVP

May 21, Thursday 10 am–noon

Family History

[Susan Brundage](#) 408-294-6130

May 21, Thursday 7 pm

Mystery Lovers

Whip Hand by Dick Frances

[Sharon Shephard](#)

May 25, Monnday 6:30pm

Vegetarian Gourmet Potluck

Jean Wyatt 408-262-3372

May 26, Tuesday 11:30 am

Lunch Bunch

Negeen Restaurant

801 W. Hamilton Ave, Campbell

RSVP [Lucy Poindexter](#)

May 26, Tuesday 7–8:30 pm

Great Decisions

The US & Africa

[Jan Palajac](#)

May 27, Wednesday 10 am

Friends

Film *Girls Rising*

See article

[Sharon Bouska](#)

May 28, Thursday 9:30 am

Great Decisions

Sectarianism in the Middle East

[Maureen Curulla](#)

May 28, Thursday 6:30–8:30 pm

Game Night

Bring a game and a munchie

RSVP by Monday May 25

Sandee Plymire 408-280-5799

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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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PERIODICALS

POSTAGE PAID

AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Wednesday

MAY 27

10 am



Girl Rising

Join the Friends Interest Group on Wednesday, May 27 for a showing of *Girl Rising*. From Academy Award-nominated director Richard E. Robbins, *Girl Rising* journeys around the globe to witness the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world. Viewers get to know nine unforgettable girls living in the developing world: ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds to pursue their dreams. Prize-winning authors put the girls' remarkable stories into words, and renowned actors give them voice.

After the movie and a discussion, we will share a potluck lunch. If you are interested in joining us, please e-mail [Sharon Bouska](mailto:Sharon.Bouska@aauw.org). Friends meets at Headquarters at 10 am.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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