December 2012

Vol. LXIV Issue 5

San Jose Branch BONFIRE AAUW

"Investing In Girls - Women Leading The Way"



It's winter holiday time! Join us as we mix and mingle with holiday cheer. Meet new members and re-connect with long-time friends.

You're invited to bring a special holiday treat from your family's heritage to share. Cookies, cakes, candies, pies and breads from this country and around the world will make our "Jingle Mingle" memorable.

Give yourself the gift of time to share the warmth of the season with your AAUW friends. Share with us in this year's holiday "Jingle Mingle!"

Contact Louise Persson, louisepersson1@gmail.com with questions.



Cornerstone Program Saturday, January 19 10 am - 11:30 Sponsored by Education Equity

Third Wednesday Program

Top Secret Rosies Wednesday, January 16 4:30 - 6 pm Documentary

See back page ⇒





TO VOLUNTEER: Contact kathy@gifts4teens.org, 408-557-8653, to assemble gift bags between December 5 and 14. Assembly site is 6942 Almaden Expressway, corner of Via Valiente, 95120 (same site as 2011). Morning or afternoon shifts available.

TO DONATE ITEMS OR CASH: Contact Elaine Benoit, ebenoit@pacbell.net, 408-268-9654. Leave donated gift items at AAUW, 1165 Minnesota Ave. SJ 95125. Make out checks to: ISPF-AAUW-GFT, and mail to the AAUW address above.

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

Public Policy and Legal Advocacy

2012 AAUW-CA Legislative Positions Report

Gloria Leonard, Public Policy Chair, glorialnrd25@gmail.com

Fewer bills were introduced in the 2012 California Legislative session, likely because anything requiring state funding would face an extreme uphill battle given the massive multibillion dollar state budget deficit, and that most legislation will have some cost impact to the state. "In the face of this deficit, it was a challenge to maintain even a minimal safety net, as evidenced by reductions in CalWORKS benefits," said Shannon Smith-Crowley, AAUW-CA's Legislative Advocate in Sacramento.

Many good bills supported by AAUW California died before reaching the Governor, primarily due to the state funding issue. Even in this adverse environment, however, AAUW-CA was able to secure a respectable package of supported bills which will become law in 2013. We should also celebrate that not a single bill opposed by AAUW-CA made it to the Governor's desk.

AAUW victories included:

*Reviving the Commission on the Status of Women *Supporting implementation of the Affordable Care Act in a way to support the health of women and girls *Increasing the time for voter registration from a deadline of 15 days prior to an election to allow voter registration up to the day of an election *Protecting intercollegiate student athletes *Limiting shackling of pregnant incarcerated women *Increasing awareness and reporting of human trafficking through postings of hotlines *Improving school accountability standards

Seven "Action Alerts" were generated by AAUW-CA, with more than 5,500 messages to legislators and/or the Governor being sent. Bill authors were very impressed and appreciative of these efforts. Join in the advocacy work of AAUW San Jose by attending monthly Public Policy meetings and/or responding to Action Alerts from state and national and staying informed about issues that matter to women and girls.





Legal Advocacy Fund: What Does LAF Do?

Mary Barry, LAF Vice Pressident, maryjbarry@comcast.net

When you give to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) your donations go to support these programs.

Legal Advocacy Funds work to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. LAF selects cases based on the potential to help a broad group of women. LAF has approved \$100,000 to fund cases this year.

<u>Research Reports</u> such as the recently released "The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap" updates the earlier report with new numbers and graphics showing state-by-state rankings, gap by age, race and education, and provides guidance to women facing discrimination in the workplace, and resources for fair pay advocates.

<u>LAF Case Support Travel Grants</u> provide financial support to plaintiffs, their lawyers and other experts for traveling to speak at state meetings or conventions about sex discrimination cases.

<u>Legal Referral Network</u> is an online service for referrals to a network of legal experts. In addition, network partners provide initial consultations to individuals considering sex discrimination litigation and can help direct them to appropriate resources.

<u>Campus and Community Outreach Programs</u> provide grants for member-led projects focused on educating students in many areas, particularly gender equity programs. AAUW has donated funds to promote the documentary "The Invisible War".

<u>Resource Library</u> offers access to legal information, case examples, statistics, answers to frequently asked questions, and outside resources on various sex discrimination topics focusing on the wider workplace and education campuses.

Please help continue the valuable work that the Legal Advocacy Fund is doing by volunteering to help with our LAF fund raiser this year and by giving generously to LAF financially to continue this work. Please contact: Mary Barry at 408-227-8429 or maryjbarry@comcast.net.

Presidential Sparks

Marilyn Jackson

In early November I received a package in the mail from Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director. It included a certificate of authenticity and one of 130 American flags that had been flown above the United States Capitol on January 14, 2012, the 130th anniversary of the first meeting of the organization that was to become the American Association of University Women (AAUW). This was done thanks to the Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Member of Congress.

As one of the two oldest AAUW branches in California, we were given a flag in recognition of our branch's longstanding commitment to AAUW's mission. I was asked to share it with our branch in remembrance of AAUW's long history of commitment and to pass it on to future presidents as a legacy of those sisters who came before.

Board Notes

 The Public Policy Committee was recognized for its hard work during the "It's My Vote" campaign and a letter of commendation from the AAUW CA President was shared with the Board.

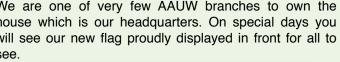
 Sandra Savage was appointed chair of the committee to review Branch Policies and Procedures and Job Descriptions. The first meeting will be held in January.

 A special (ad hoc) College/University Partnership Committee was established. Geri Madden, President-elect, will serve as chair.

•Donations to the AAUW Funds (EF) were \$14, 450 as of November 1, 2012.

Edna Robison, immediate Past-President, is preparing a list of members to serve on the Nominating Committee which will be elected by the Board in December.

We are one of very few AAUW branches to own the house which is our headquarters. On special days you will see our new flag proudly displayed in front for all to see.



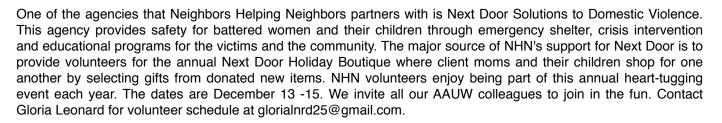


Many thanks to Janice Baxter who has served as our Sunshine Chair for the past year and a half. As she chooses to step aside, Claire Campodonico willingly takes her place.

Contact Claire if you would like to have a card or note sent to members for condolences, get-well, congratulations or other events.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN)

Bobbie Baker, rcbaker@sbcglobal.net



Also in December is the annual collection of warm clothing for Santa Maria Urban Ministry aptly called "Warm Hearts." Drop off coats, sweaters, blankets, hats, and gloves in the parlor closet at Headquarters. Please label your donation "Warm Hearts".

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AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire Community Action Projects



Sports Equity Takes A "Virtual" Trip To DC Laura Manthey, Ismant@aol.com

On October 29 member Marlene Bjornsrud shared with us her amazing experience of participating in a small roundtable discussion with Michelle Obama in Washington, D.C. I wish you all could have been there with us as Marlene led us through the entire experience. From the phone call inviting her, to the famous Michelle hug, to the depth of emotion felt by the participants, to photos of Marlene and Michelle...well, we felt as if we had been there. It's clear we women are better for this First Lady (and her husband!) knowing that whatever her future holds, she "has our backs". Thank you so much, Marlene. Your words and photos and emotions will long be remembered in my head and heart.

Marlene is co-founder and CEO of the Bay Area Women's Sports Inititive (BAWSI).

Santa's Elves Aid Gifts for Teens

Elaine Benoit, ebenoit@pacbell.net

Preparing teen gift bags is fun and rewarding. Come help, bring your friends and enjoy the AAUW holiday spirit! Local impoverished youth will receive a festive bag full of useful gifts ensuring a brighter holiday. Gifts for Teens is looking for numerous volunteers to prepare items and assemble bags from December 5 through December 14. Schedule your day, either morning or afternoon shift, by contacting kathy@gifts4teens, 408 557-8653.

Each needy teen will have a zipped sweatshirt in a colorful tote bag. How warm and cozy these local teens will be this winter! Knit scarves, cosmetics, and other fun teen gifts are still being collected. Leave items, clearly marked "Gifts for Teens", including your name, at AAUW Headquarters. Make cash donations to ISPF-AAUW-GFT and mail to 1165 Minnesota, San Jose 95126. Thank you, holiday elf!

Annual Local Scholarship Holiday Boutique Another Success

Cheryl Markman, cherylmarkman@hotmail.com

Thanks to the generosity of our members and their friends, this year's Local Scholarship Holiday Boutique was another great success with approximately \$4500 having been raised. Much of that success was due to the generosity of so many of our Interest Groups who donated themed gift baskets reflective of their interests. Those Interest Groups included Art Appreciation, Wednesday Night book group, Mystery Lovers book club, all of the Bridge Groups, Couples Gourmet, Friends, International Gourmet, Knitting Know-How, Light Gourmet, Lunch Bunch, Weekend Walkers and all of those groups who chose to donate anonymously. Several more baskets were donated by individual members. Still other members donated baked goods, dolls, soup and dip mixes, cookies-in-a-jar, handcrafted jewelry and craft items, small potted plants, handknitted scarves and so much more! Thanks to you all for your donations, and to all of you who shopped so wisely !! And to any of you who were unable to attend the Boutique, please check out the parlor. There are still a few baskets and other goodies available for purchase!

In the 32 years since the San Jose Branch Local Scholarship project was formed, we have awarded a total of \$96,500 to 93 recipients. Last year we were able to award \$10,000 in scholarships, enabling the nine recipients to further their college education at four-year institutions. Thanks to your generous donations throughout the year and your purchases at the boutique, we will be able to provide scholarships to even more deserving college women in 2013. Your continued support does make a difference! The Local Scholarship Committee thanks you all.



Basket wrappers, Sharon Bouska and Brenda Ladewig

Branch Programs and Updates -December

Membership Matters NEW BRANCH MEMBERS

Claire Campodonico, clairecamp@comcast.net

ANNE ANDREWS is a native New Yorker, born and raised in NYC. She received her BA in Psychology from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. Having moved to California just one year ago due to her husband's job, Anne has quickly settled into life in Willow Glen. She noticed our Headquarters during her visits to the library next door. Anne is hoping to work again soon. In the meantime, she has joined French Conversation and Lunch Bunch. C o n t a c t : 408-728-7438, anne.andrews@gmail.com

LYNN FOX achieved both her Bachelor of Science in Commerce and her MBA from Santa Clara University. She then went to work in the treasury department of Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Company. Moving to the Bank of America, she handled commercial lending nationwide and also taught credit risk management. She retired from Bank of America as a Vice-President. Although Lynn lives in Fremont, she plans to be active in our Branch. She was referred by member Carla Murakami. Contact: 510-657-6695, lynn.fox@sbcglobal.net

JENNIFER (JENNY) LIEN graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a BS in Communicative Disorders. And, from the University of Minnesota she earned her AU.D., Doctorate in Audiology. She and her husband moved to California just two years ago in order for him to take a position at Stanford University. Jenny works full time at Kaiser in San Jose as an Audiologist. Her patient, member Edie Kerr, introduced her to AAUW. Jenny and her husband are still exploring all that the Bay Area has to offer. They reside in Mountain View. Contact: 612-281-0423, jlien28@gmail.com

> For Membership information contact Sharon Bouska, sharonbouska@gmail.com

Tech Trek/Tech Excellence

Are We Ready to Be "Green"?

Edna Robison, e29.robison@yahoo.com

Tech Excellence girls at John Muir Middle School are ready to embrace "Green Technology"! On November 1, three women - Bertha Prieto, Rosiella Ileto and Lizzy Kay - from Salas O'Brien, an energy planning and infrastructure engineering firm in San Jose, introduced the topic. They talked about sources of pollution, ways to reduce energy usage, solar panels, windmills, hybrid cars, and home appliances. Lee Hornberger, a retired engineer and an AAUW San Jose Building Committee member, served as the lead workshop facilitator. She distributed energy worksheets and a list of home appliances with corresponding wattage. She challenged the class to calculate energy use in the living room, the kitchen, the laundry room, and the bedroom. Other volunteers were Jane Guinther, Nancy Hooton, Jean Luckhardt, Mary Ellen Madden, and Edna Robison. The related field trip was a visit to the Tech Museum's Solar Circuits Lab and Energy Exhibits.

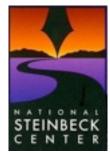
What did the girls learn?

Watch TV less. It saves energy and dollars.

- How to find kilowatt-hours (kWh). 1000 Watts are a kilowatt.
- Take less time in front of the refrigerator. You spend a lot of money without knowing it.
- Solar can help save money. It's expensive but the right thing to do.
- Using the washer and dryer is expensive. Natural sun is the first best source to use.

Up next is an Aviation Class with Andrea Connell, United Airlines Pilot on January 17 followed by a field trip on January 24 to try out the Hiller Aviation Flight Simulators. We meet at 8:30 am at John Muir Middle School. Please contact me to volunteer and to get more information on Tech Excellence and Tech Trek (the 2013 summer science camp at Stanford).

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire Interest Groups - December



December With Art Appreciation Marty Glanzman, mkglanzman@att.net

The Art Appreciation interest group will be visiting two art exhibits in December.

The Christmas Crèche exhibit is a wonderful display of Christmas crèches from all over the world. Art Appreciation will be attending this event on December 5, leaving Headquarters at 11 am. If you are interested, please contact Marty Glanzman for more information at <u>mkglanzman@att.net</u> or 408-226-4642. The exhibit is open daily from noon till 9 pm at the Church of the Latter Day Saints, 3865 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA. Admission is free.

The National Steinbeck Center - Women's Rights Art Exhibition focuses on the Women's Caucus for Art's 40th Anniversary. "Honoring Women's Rights, Echoing Visual Voices Together" features art work that examines and explores the social, political, and economic issues related to women's activism.

We will meet to see the exhibit on Wednesday December 12. General admission to the museum at 1 Main Street, Salinas, CA is \$14.95; Seniors 62+ are \$8.95; Members are free.

Because we are going south to Salinas, we will NOT meet at Headquarters for carpooling. Rather, we will meet at 9 am at the parking lot of Summit Steakhouse by the Holiday Inn, 389 Silicon Valley Blvd., San Jose. This is right off both freeways 101 and 85 at the south end of San Jose. Take the Bernal/Silicon Valley Blvd exit, turn left over the freeway and the Holiday Inn and Steakhouse will be on your left. We will have lunch at a nearby restaurant and return by 4 pm. Please contact Marty Glanzman if you plan to attend.

Willow Glen Holiday Lights Walk

Jean Reed, Weekend Walkers, jjkreed@comcast.net

Again this year, Weekend Walkers will enjoy the holiday lights of the Willow Glen neighborhood around Headquarters. We'll be walking on Friday evening December 21. Come to Headquarters by 6:30 with a dish to share if you would like to join Singles for a pot-luck dinner before the walk. Or come just for the walk. We will plan to leave about 7:15 and expect to be back by 8:30. If you like, bring some cookies to share with the group after we walk.

Attention Cooks! Margaret Bard, margaretbard@gmail.com

Couples Gourmet is looking for a couple who enjoy talking, eating, and thinking about food, as well as preparing it. Each couple hosts the group in their home twice a year. The hosts plan the menu and assign recipes to the rest of the group. Some people like to test 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 6 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 contact Margaret Bard at margaretbard@gmail.com or 408-377-6625.

A Beginning Bridge group is being formed. If you are interested in learning to play bridge or refresh your memories from college days contact Nancy Valby @ 408-259-2534 or by email @ nancy.valby@earthlink.net (preferred). For now we will meet at my home. Initial sessions have been scheduled for the following Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.: January 2, 2013 and January 23, 2013. It is desirable to have 8 regular committed players.



Unless otherwise noted, events are held at Headquarters.

Weekend Walkers meets most Saturdays and Sundays at 8 am for an hour-long walk on the Los Gatos Creek Trail. To receive weekly emails about walks, contact jjkreed@comcast.net.

December 3, Monday 10 am Bridge Mary Clare Hopkins maryclarehopkins@sbcglobal.net

Dienstag 4 Dezember um 11 Uhr **German Conversation RSVP** an SnyderDonB@hotmail.com bei Barbara Snyder

December 4, Tuesday 11:30 Lunch Bunch Almaden Country Club RSVP: Diana Taylor by Nov 29 Dgtaylor40@comcast.net

December 5, Wednesday 11 am **Art Appreciation** Carpool to Christmas Crêche Charlotte Mackay 408-446-2315 or cjourney@flash.net

December 8, Saturday **Gourmet Couples** For time & location contact: Margaret Bard MargaretBard@gmail.com

December 9, Sunday **Film Fans** For time & location contact: Linda Snashall lsnashall@comcast.net

December 10, Monday 10 am Bridge **Rosemary Bush** chezburo@juno.com

December 10, Monday 6 pm Gourmet Light Cheryl Markman cherylmarkman@hotmail.com Barbara Bettencourt twowrldtrvlrs@aol.com

Dec 12, Wednesday 9 am Art Appreciation National John Steinbeck Museum See article for carpool details Marty Glanzman mkeglanzman@att.net or 408-226-4642

December 12, Wednesday 7pm BITS : Basketball Santa Clara at San Jose State Laura Manthey lsmant@aol.com

December 13, Thursday 10 am Family History Barbara Van Arsdale barbaravanarsdale@yahoo.com

December 13, Thursday 7:15 pm Bridge Bobbie Eckerman eckshome1@aol.com

December 14, Friday 10 am Bridge Lida Kluzek lidakluzek@att.net

December 17, Monday 6:30 Gourmet International Christmas Dessert/Gift Exchange Arline Veteska arline@veteska.com

Mardi 18 decembre à 11 heures French Conversation chez Barbara Snyder. RSVP an SnyderDonB@hotmail.com Apportez votre sandwich et un petit cadeau pour échanger

December 21, Friday 10 am Bridge Lida Kluzek lidakluzek@att.net

December 21, Friday 6:30 pm AAUW Singles pot-luck Jean Wyatt wjeanwyatt@aol.com

December 21, Friday 7:15 pm **Weekend Walkers** Willow Glen Holiday Lights (see article) Jean Reed jjkreed@comcast.net

Meetings and Special Events

December 5 to 14 shifts from 9 am or 1 pm **GIFTS FOR TEENS** bag assembly (See front page) Elaine Benoit ebenoit@pacbell.net



December 5, Wednesday 7 pm **Board Meeting** Marilyn Jackson Marjack44@sbcglobal.net

December 8, Saturday 2 - 4 pm Holiday Social "Jingle Mingle" (See front page) Louise Persson louisepersson1@gmail.com

December 11, Tuesday 7 pm **Education Equity Committee Meeting** Alice Lopez enna.lopez@yahoo.com

*For information about Interest Groups, contact Coordinator Elaine McMahon, ElaineCMcMahon@yahoo.com. *Members interested in Bridge should call the contact person to see if a substitute is needed on a specific date. 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

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PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID

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BONFIRE ARTICLE SUBMITTAL RULES:

The sole purpose of this publication is to convey the association's business to its membership. Only articles and announcements related to Branch business will be considered for inclusion.

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

January 2013

Education Equity Branch Program

Saturday, January 19, 2013 10 am to 11:30

Project Cornerstone

Come and learn what Project Cornerstone is doing about bullying, school drop outs, and developing social responsibility in the youth of our community Third Wednesday Program Wednesday January 16

4:30 - 6 pm

TOP SECRET Rosies

a documentary The Female Computers of World War II In war, Math may be the most secret weapon of all.

Deadline: Articles and calendar items must be submitted to the Editor for review by the first Wednesday of the month before publication. To submit items, send an email to <u>jjkreed@comcast.net</u> with a Microsoft WORD (.doc or .docx) attachment. Please include "AAUW Bonfire (month/2013)" in the subject line. Send calendar items to <u>doinel@earthlink.net</u>.

AAUW advances equity for all women and girls, through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. See the San Jose Branch Website at <u>www.aauwsanjose.org</u> for more information.