

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE

Empowering Women Since 1881

Coming Up**Open House**

Thursday, January 30
7 - 8:30 pm

Friday, February 14

Women's Economic Forum

See page 2

Saturday, February 15

The World On Stage

See front page

Friday, March 7

Dinner With Lilly

Saturday, March 8

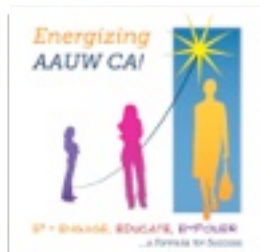
Lilly Ledbetter speaks

April 13 - 15

AAUW California Convention 2014

Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel

Details in February *Perspective*



The World On Stage



Saturday, February 15, 2014

Le Petit Trianon Theatre

72 North 5th Street, San Jose 95112

The LAF fundraiser, "The World On Stage," will take place on Saturday, February 15, at the Le Petit Trianon Theatre, 1-4 pm. There will be a silent auction in the theatre lobby from 1-2 pm. Performances from countries around the world, including Egypt, Turkey, China, India, Iran, Mexico, Cuba, and Tibet start at 2 pm. Some of the performances are rarely seen live in this country, and never all in one event. This will be a one-of-a-kind afternoon, as it will not likely be repeated.

The silent auction will feature items such as a luxury vacation rental in Santa Cruz, spa certificate, a case of Dom Perignon, various gift baskets, and numerous gift certificates from wineries, the California Café, Bucca de Beppo, Viva Restaurant, Dream Dinners, and more.

Please come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and wonder. Get your tickets now, as seating is limited. For tickets, please call Kathy Bechly at 408-768-8271, Mary Lou Hajduk at 408-979-1813, or Eva Levine at 408-300-0515.

For information contact [Eva Levine](#), LAF VP



The President Speaks Geri Madden

I get lots of e-mails as your President and I would be lying if I said that I had time for them all. But there is one e-mail that I specifically look forward to getting because it is so inspiring and reaffirms for me that AAUW is a positive force in our world and that my dues and donations are money well spent. It is the AAUW Action Network end of year summary.

Here are a few highlights from that e-mail for 2013:

AAUW was invited to the White House no less than three times in the course of the year. We were invited to stand with President Obama to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act. We were there when the President announced his immigration proposals. Finally in recognition of efforts to combat sexual violence and human trafficking, AAUW was invited to the White House for National Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month.

AAUW also played a significant role in the fight to pass the Violence Against Women Act by personally visiting congressional offices and sending thousands of messages to Congress. Without AAUW, campus sexual assault measures would have been overlooked in the legislation that became law.

There is much more, but I want to finish by highlighting the fact that AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz was the recipient of the Winn Newman Award for the National Coalition for Pay Equity. Previous winners include Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Lilly Ledbetter. Hopefully by the time you read this you will have had the pleasure of hearing Ms. Maatz speak at DeAnza College on January 28. If you missed Lisa, please don't miss Lilly Ledbetter who speaks at San Jose State University on March 8.

If you want to find out more about the AAUW Action Network, here is the link: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

I have been a part of many organizations in the course of my life, and AAUW is at the top of my list for being so good, so professional and so effective at putting its mission into action. I want to thank all San Jose Branch members for doing your part in making this happen.

"When Women Succeed, America Succeeds"

A Fourm with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

AAUW of California and the AAUW San Jose Branch invite you to a discussion on a new economic agenda for women with Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (CA-18). Since being elected to Congress, Rep. Eshoo has championed the interests of women on the most significant social, economic, and health issues across the public policy spectrum. Rep. Eshoo has fought to open the doors of opportunity for women and girls in school and work, and advocated for equitable pay, tougher child support enforcement, and family-friendly workplaces. Rep. Eshoo is especially proud of her work to promote women's health initiatives and protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Following Rep. Eshoo's presentation, women will share their stories and how the women's economic agenda would help them and their families.

This takes place at 11 am on Friday, February 14 at the Technology Center (Room T-415) of San Jose City College, 2100 Moorpark Ave, 95128. Registration and [RSVP required](#).

The Women's Economic Agenda includes many policies for which AAUW has long advocated including equal pay, work/life balance, and access to child care. By advancing these issues and the women's economic agenda as a whole, we can ensure the future of America's families, the growth of America's economy, and the strengthening of the middle class.

AAUW San Jose will be helping with speakers, advertising and registration. If you would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity, please contact [Geri Madden](#), [Jacqui Gustafarro](#), [Gloria Leonard](#) or [Helen Stevens](#).



What Do These Women Have In Common?

Jacqui Gustaferry and Gloria Leonard
Co-Chairs Public Policy Committee

Kathleen Sebelius, Diane Feinstein, Nikki Haley, Hilda Solis, Elizabeth Warren, Nancy Pelosi, Kirsten Gillibrand, Hillary Clinton, Mary Fallin, Sonia Sotomayor, Kelly Ayotte, Wendy Davis, and Susana Martinez? These women hold or have held public office positions including cabinet positions, governors, congressional seats and presidential candidates. And their number is increasing. There has been a steady growth in the numbers of women in office, albeit a slow growth. There are 31 women in Congress, the highest ever. Women account for 18% of state legislators, 17% of state executives, 9% of county governing boards, and 14% of mayors and city councils.

That's good news, but the fact remains that the United States currently ranks 77th on an international list of women's participation in national government. Political culture and socialization have an impact on women's representation along with discrimination against women by political elites and voters. Is there a gender gap on public policy when women hold public positions? Women, in general, are less militaristic on war and peace; favor gun control; and are protective in helping the disadvantaged

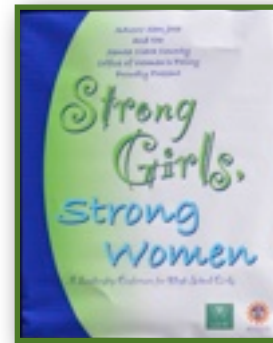
and disabled. In terms of economic and social equity, as women represent at least 50% of the population, there should be more representation by women in governing bodies. "When there are more females holding office, it stands to reason we'll see more gains in women's health, education and economic empowerment." (Data from "The Impact of Women in Political Office," Susan J. Carroll, 2001)

AAUW is dedicated to breaking down barriers to the election of women and has launched the "Elect Her—Campus Women Win" program which trains college women to run for student government. The bottom line is that more women need to run for office. They need inspiration, they need expertise, they need experience, and they need to start as soon as possible. The goal of "Elect Her" is to engage these women in politics early and create a pipeline of leaders who will run for office someday. We can expect intense campaigns in 2014 with women vs. women races and issues such as reproductive rights on political agendas. See the Calendar for the next Public Policy Committee Meeting. All are welcome.

AAUW Board In Action January Board Meeting

A Mandatory By-Laws Review Committee was established with Sandra Savage, Branch Parliamentarian as Chair.

The Board unanimously approved purchase of a new computer contingent on approval by the Finance Committee which followed the next day. Judy Burt, Office and Computer Officer, and Pat Diamond, resident computer guru, will update regular users on installation of the new computer.



\$5,000 Award to Support "Strong Girls, Strong Women"

Louise Persson

\$5,000 has been awarded to the "Strong Girls, Strong Women" girls' leadership conference by the Kaiser Permanente Community Grants Program. The 2013 SGSW conference was attended by more than 200 girls and their advocates, and was recognized as the AAUW State Program of the Month for June. The conference, co-sponsored by AAUW-SJ and the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy, was first held last May at the request of Branch President Marilyn Jackson who suggested an event supporting local girls. This year's conference will be held May 3. AAUW members will again provide several powerful workshops, and members are welcome to volunteer on the day of the event.

Welcome

Membership Matters

By Claire Campodonico

PAT MAHONY earned her BA in Philosophy from Santa Clara University. She continued her studies at SJSU, obtaining her MA in Philosophy. Attending the University of San Francisco, she received a MS in Organizational Development. Pat was referred to our Branch by Jean Reed. Pat is the Director of Human Resources at SanDisk corporation in Milpitas. Pat Mahony

DONNA PADNOS lives in Willow Glen. She discovered our Branch during her walks and also saw our ad in the Willow Glen Resident. She earned her BS in Zoology and Chemistry from the University of Illinois in Urbana. Continuing her studies at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Donna obtained her MS in Biological Sciences. At the University of Chicago, she received her MBA. After a forty year career in health care administration and consulting, Donna recently retired and often travels internationally. Donna Padnos

JUDY PURSLEY was referred by Marcia Capella. Judy obtained her BA in Teaching Arts from the University of Portland and continued her studies at the University of San Francisco where she acquired a MA in Educational Administration and a Ph.D. in Counseling and Educational Psychology. Her career has been primarily as a school psychologist. Now retired, she is a psychologist in the private sector. Judy is in her seventh year of providing pro bono counseling services at Family Supportive Housing in San Jose. Judy Pursley

ESTHER LUDLOW resides in Willow Glen and saw our Membership Open House notice in the Willow Glen Resident. She received a BA in Psychology from Holy Names University in Oakland. Continuing her studies at Santa Clara University, Esther earned a MA in Counseling. She is in private practice in Campbell as a counselor and life coach. Esther Ludlow

THEA JACOBS earned her BA in Psychology from UC Irvine. She continued her studies in Indiana, majoring in Elementary Education. Thea's career was being a retail buyer for Macy's department stores. She spent most of her time raising her busy family. Returning to California from Indiana three years ago, she plans to be active in our Branch. She was referred by her friend Michelle McGurk. Thea Jacobs

MONIQUE LEE is a native of France. Her primary education was at Picpus and Les Oiseaux. At the latter, she obtained her BA in Philosophy. Monique studied at Faculte de Droit (Law) for three years then met her husband and moved to Hong Kong. There, she taught French at several colleges. After working for the French Trade Commission, she entered the garment business, traveling internationally. After twenty years, she and her husband retired to London. Her final move was in 2012 to the US to be close to her sons. She was referred to our Branch by the group Business and Professional Women. Now retired, she is interested in joining French Conversation. Monique Lee

Membership Survey

Gay Gale, Membership Co-VP

Why are you an AAUW member? You will be asked to tell us via a one-minute survey at Interest Group and Community Action Project meetings during the month of February. The data gathered in this survey will be used to focus recruiting efforts to keep our Branch strong and vibrant. Thanks, in advance, for sharing your reasons and allowing us to better craft AAUW-San Jose's marketing message and events.



AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

Branch Programs and Updates



Needy Teens Celebrate a Brighter Holiday

Elaine Benoit, Gifts for Teens

The good news is in. Local needy teens celebrated a brighter holiday this year thanks to Gifts For Teens! Testimonials highlight how popular and appreciated the bags and totes were this past December. The Gifts For Teens project gave away 1280 teen gift-filled duffel bags, each valued at \$147. Homeless and run-away teens and displaced foster-care youths, 454 teens representing every segment of society, loved the full bags containing a jacket for the guys and sweatshirt for the girls. These teenagers who enjoy few or no gifts, parties, or family gatherings at holiday time were thrilled by festive events where the GFT bags were handed out.

Another 826 teens from poor families also received Gifts for Teens bags filled with apparel, games, personal products and cosmetics, and \$25 in gift cards.

Starting from a small effort, GFT has grown mightily. Cash contributions from individuals make up half of the funds raised for the project and over six hundred people are involved as donors and workers throughout the year. An outpouring of donated items from schools, community groups and businesses added greatly to the bag contents. Community and AAUW members are to be congratulated for their support! GFT celebrates another successful opportunity to help out in our community by making the holidays brighter for needy teens.



Women in the Olympics!

Laura Manthey, Title IX/Sports Equity

The 2014 Winter Olympics will feature 12 new events - 3 mixed, 4 men's and 5 women's. Watch for women's ski jumping, snowboard parallel slalom, snowboard slopestyle, ski slopestyle, and ski halfpipe. The mixed events include biathlon mixed relay, figure skating team event, and luge team relay. For details see <http://www.olympic.org/news/what-s-new-for-sochi/218742>.

Nelson Mandela once said that "Sport has the power to change the world...It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than government in breaking down racial barriers." I believe sport also breaks down barriers for women!

Meetings and Special Events

February 3, Monday 7 pm
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Bobbie Baker

February 5, Wednesday 7 pm
Board Meeting
Geri Madden
All members welcome!

February 10, Monday 1:30 pm
Financially Fit For Life
Mary Barry

February 11, Tuesday 6 pm
Public Policy Committee
Gloria Leonard

February 14, Friday time TBD
Women's Economic Forum
San Jose City College
Jacqui Gustafarro



Tech Excellence

Edna Robison

January Tech Excellence classes featured aviation. Resource speaker Andrea Connell joined us for her 11th year speaking to 25 girls at John Muir Middle School. The girls learned about the four forces of flight (lift, thrust, drag, and gravity) and had fun applying the principles at four different stations. The following week the girls visited the Hiller Aviation Museum to learn more about flying through flight simulations.

On February 11, there will be a veterinarian class (anatomy, dog physical exam, animal diseases, reading x-rays, prep for surgery) followed by a field trip on February 27 to the SJSU Audiology Department. Can you volunteer to accompany the girls? Please contact me as soon as possible.

***Tech Excellence** is our highly-regarded program for middle school girls. It is supported by a faithful few, but more help is needed to keep it a vital part of our Branch community projects. Call Edna and ask how you can help. -Ed.*



Knitting Know-How Interest Group

Margaret McCartney

A new afternoon knitting group is being started which will meet at Headquarters the first Thursday of the month from 1 to 3 pm. There are six places open, so if you are interested, please call or e-mail me. "First Come, First Placed." Please note that the second Thursday evening group that meets at Headquarters has been dissolved.

NHN February 2014

Bobbie Baker

BINGO! Neighbors Helping Neighbors is sponsoring a Bingo night at Julian Street Inn in February. Clients of this transitional housing agency enjoy a fun evening of snacks, Bingo and great prizes. Prizes include socks, lotion, soap, purses, shoes, sweat shirts and T-shirts. Prizes can be dropped off at the parlor closet in the bin labeled "Bingo." For more information, contact Colleen Tresaden.

Friends

The Friends Interest Group will view the first hour of *The Way*, a 2010 film directed by Emilio Estavez honoring the Camino de Santiago. "A father, Martin Sheen, heads overseas to recover the body of his estranged son who died while traveling the 'El camino de Santiago,' and decides to take the pilgrimage himself."

Have you walked Camino de Santiago? Member Kathy Myers has and will be there to share her experience. Join us Wednesday, February 26, 10 am to noon.

December 2013 AAUW BRIDGE WINNERS

Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday Carol Baker, Judy Kumagai,
Mary Clare Hopkins
Second Monday Rosemary Busch, Pat Mikolic,
Mary Braley
Second Thursday Sandra Savage
Second Friday (Duplicate) Darline Wilson,
Jean Ritchie, Joan Benedetti
Third Friday Denise Kwan, Mary Clare Hopkins,
Mary Fitzgerald
Fourth Tuesday No Bridge



February Interest Group Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all events are held at Headquarters.

Click on the underlined name of the Interest Group contact and the email address should be revealed. Or consult your Branch Directory for information. For general information about Interest Groups, contact [Sharon Bouska](#).

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](#)

February 3, Monday 10 am
Bridge
[Mary Clare Hopkins](#)

Dienstag 4 Februar um 11 Uhr
German Conversation
bei [Barbara Snyder](#) (RSVP)

February 8, Saturday 8:30 – 3 pm
Weekend Walkers
Pacific Grove Butterfly Sanctuary
[Jean Reed](#) (RSVP)
ijkreed@comcast.net

February 8, Saturday
Gourmet Couples
For time & location contact:
[Margaret Bard](#)

February 9, Sunday
Film Fans
For time & location contact:
[Linda Snashall](#)

February 10, Monday 10 am
Bridge
[Rosemary Busch](#)

February 10, Monday 6 pm
Gourmet Light
[Barbara Bettencourt](#)
[Cheryl Markman](#)

February 11, Tuesday 10 am
Morning Book Discussion
Transatlantic by Colm McCann
[Joyce Baker](#)

February 12, Wednesday 10 am
Art Appreciation
“Around the Table: Food Creativity & Community”
San Jose Museum of Art
Meet in Museum Lobby
[Marty Glanzman](#)

February 12, Wednesday 7 pm
Evening Book Discussion
The Language of Flowers by
Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Led by Jill Holdaway
[Laura Manthey](#)

February 13, Thursday, 9:30 am
Great Decisions
[Maureen Curulla](#)

February 13, Thursday 7:15 pm
Bridge
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

February 14, Friday 10 am
Bridge
[Lida Kluzek](#)

February 17, Monday 9:30 am
Exploring World Literature
Madame Bovary by Gustave
Flaubert
Presented by Marcia Capella
[Lucy Poindexter](#)
[Sue Eichenbaum](#)

February 17, Monday 6:30 pm
Gourmet International
Greece
[Arline Veteska](#)

mardi 18 fevrier à 11 heures
French Conversation
chez Barbara Snyder
RSVP à [Barbara Snyder](#)

February 20, Thursday 10 am
Family History
[Barbara Van Arsdale](#)

February 20, Thursday 7 pm
Mystery Lovers
A Bad Day for Sorry
by Sophie Littlefield
[Sharon Shepard](#)

February 21, Friday 6:30 pm
AAUW Singles
[Jean Wyatt](#)

February 24, Monday 6:30 pm
Gourmet Vegetarian
[Jean Wyatt](#)

February 25, Tuesday 11:30 am
Lunch Bunch
Taiwan Restaurant
1306 Lincoln Avenue
RSVP: by February 21
[Diana Taylor](#)

February 25, Tuesday 7 pm
Great Decisions
[Jan Palajac](#)

February 25, Tuesday 7:15 pm
Bridge
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

February 26, Wednesday 10 am
Friends Interest Group
film: **The Way**, Camino de Santiago
See article
[Sharon Bouska](#)

February 27, Thursday 9:30 am
Great Decisions
[Maureen Curulla](#)

February 27, Thursday 7 pm
Game Night
RSVP by Monday, February 24
Sandee Plymire 408-280-5799

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**PERIODICALS
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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



Lilly Ledbetter
Keynote Speaker at SJSU
South Bay Women's Conference
March 8, 1-3PM

Come hear this dynamic speaker and author of Grit and Grace: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond and how her unwillingness to give up led to President Obama signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

For more information on the keynote address and on how to reserve tickets for the Friday, March 7 Dinner with Lilly, visit <http://www.southbaywc.org/>. Due to renovations at SJSU, exact locations for the conference and keynote are not confirmed yet. Please check the above website regularly for final details.

Jacqui Gustaferra and Gloria Leonard
Co-Chairs, SJ Public Policy

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 Jean Reed with a Microsoft WORD attachment. Send calendar items to Judy Kristofferson.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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