

San Jose Branch

**BONFIRE**  AAUW**“Investing In Girls - Women Leading The Way”****How Can We Provide Emotional Support For Children ?**

**AAUW San Jose  
Education Equity Program**

**Saturday January 19, 10am**

**Cambrian Library**

**1780 Hillsdale Ave, San Jose 95124**

January is **Adult Role Model Month**. Come and learn simple actions all of us can take to make Silicon Valley a better place for young people to thrive and grow. Our guest speakers are Linda Silvius of Project Cornerstone and Robin Jones, Principal of Noddin Elementary School.

Project Cornerstone has been collecting valuable information about students in Silicon Valley for several years and has provided programs to address identified needs of our students in our community. A 2010 survey measured developmental assets, which are positive values, skills, relationships and experiences that help young people grow up to be healthy, caring and responsible.

The more assets that young people have, the more likely they are to thrive. And the fewer assets that young people have, the more likely they are to get involved with negative or risky behaviors like violence, trouble in school, drug and alcohol use. One alarming result of the survey shows that almost half of elementary school students don't have adult role models.

Learn what it takes to be positive role model for our children. Bring a parent, a grandparent. Bring a friend. For details contact [Alice Lopez](#).



**Something new:** If you click on the underlined name of the author of an article or the contact for Meetings and Interest Groups, the email address should be revealed. If this does not work on your computer or if you are receiving your BONFIRE by mail, please consult the Branch Directory for contact information.

An update to the Directory will be sent out in early January. It will include new and renewed members since September.

**January Third Wednesday Program**

***Top Secret 'Rosies': The Female 'Computers' of WWII***

**January 16, 4 – 5:30 pm**

**Headquarters**

In WWII, a secret US military program was launched to recruit female mathematicians to the war effort. This 56 minute documentary film shares a story of the women and technology that helped win a war and usher in the modern computer age. In 1942, when computers were human and women were underestimated, a group of female mathematicians helped win the war by improving the accuracy of every weapon in the US arsenal. Rosie made the weapons, but the female computers made them accurate. Join us to learn their story.

For details contact, [Louise Persson](#).

## Presidential Sparks

Marilyn Jackson

One look at the January schedule of special events, meetings and interest groups tells us that AAUW San Jose is a busy Branch. Our Interest groups and community action projects form the backbone of day-to-day activity but our Branch mission-based meetings or programs are what define us. They teach and inspire us and remind us that equity is still an issue for women and girls in our community and throughout the world. Monthly programs are developed by our members to educate, enlighten and show us that there is much to learn and much to be done. They are held several times a year, on weekends, often in libraries and community centers and are open to the public.

Beginning this month and throughout the spring, several outstanding mission-based programs are being planned by our members. Our new Education Equity study group has planned the first Branch program of the spring season for Saturday, January 19th to be held at the Cambrian library. Based on the recommendations of Project Cornerstone, a YMCA Initiative..."How Can We Provide Emotional Support for Children?" seems especially poignant considering events of the past few weeks. Please come and bring friends.

### Board Notes

#### Nominating Committee Elected

Edna Robison

As Immediate Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, I am pleased to announce that the Board has elected the following Branch members to serve on the Nominating Committee: Pat Diamond, Jacqui Gustafarro, Elaine McMahon, Jean Reed, Helen Stevens and Diane Trombetta. Cheryl Markman was elected as an alternate.

Branch members are encouraged to suggest candidates or self-nominate for open Board positions: president-elect; co-vice president for program, Educational Funds and LAF; two new co-vice presidents for membership; and secretary. The Nominating Committee also welcomes suggestions for a Directory chair and four new members of the building and properties committee. Nominees will be elected in April to serve a one or two year term beginning in July 2013. For more information, please contact me.

#### 40th Anniversary Roe v Wade

January 22, 2013

Roe v Wade is the historic Supreme Court decision overturning a Texas interpretation of abortion law and making abortion legal in the United States.

AAUW has made the protection of full reproductive rights a [policy principle](#) since 1977 and strongly supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services. Families do better when women are able to plan their pregnancies.

### Public Policy

#### AAUW Twitter Campaign Creates To-Do List

Gloria Leonard

Chair, Public Policy Committee

AAUW hosted a post-election Twitter Campaign to gather recommendations for what President Obama and Congress should do on their first days of the new term. Dozens of Twitter users answered, and their priorities make for an ambitious to-do list.

Some of the topics included in Twitter users' requests were pay equity, infrastructure spending, nominating women to cabinet and agency positions and to the bench, reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, access to Plan B, Title IX compliance, filibuster reform, climate change, immigration reform, reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, unemployment benefits, solar panels on the White House, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

AAUW members will not let their voices be silent now that we've voted. We are committed to holding elected officials accountable in Washington and Sacramento. Join with other San Jose Branch members as advocates for women and girls by attending Public Policy Committee meetings (see calendar) and participating in Action Alerts.

40<sup>th</sup>

Community Action Projects

Be In The Seats with the Girls

Laura Manthey

Support women's sports together with 100 BAWSI girls who will be attending two upcoming Stanford Women's Basketball games on January 27 at 4 pm and on February 10 at 2 pm. It's great fun to sit with these enthusiastic girls. You don't have to know anything about basketball to enjoy the experience. Email Laura Manthey if you'd like details. Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative (BAWSI) creates programs and partnerships through which women athletes bring health, hope and wholeness to our community.

The February 10 game is with ASU. Member Kathleen Thorne's daughter-in-law is the coach. Charli Turner Thorne has been heavily promoting awareness of Title IX and is president of the Women's Basketball Coach's Association. As a student, she played basketball under Stanford coach Tara Vanderveer. With so many local connections, this would be a fun game to attend.



Sports Equity Spreads the Word  
Title IX and Sexual Harassment

Laura Manthey  
Sports Equity Project

Jean Reed, Louise Persson, and Laura Manthey represented AAUW San Jose at a Title IX training for guidance counselors and deans in the Campbell Union High School District in December. The presentation focused on the AAUW report *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*. It was exciting to share this important information with people who can make a difference in the lives of teens.

Meeting with school groups is a great way to spread the word about AAUW and bring awareness to the overlooked issue of sexual harassment. The PowerPoint and script are ready to use and the talk takes only about 30 minutes. If you would be willing be one of the presenters, please contact Laura. We'll provide coaching/training to get you familiar with the material beforehand.

Thank You to Members Who Donated!

Diane Trombetta, Educational Funds VP

The EF committee and I send a big "thank you" to all members who donated so generously this year to support graduate fellowships for deserving women in the US and around the globe. The San Jose Branch will be sending over \$26,000 to AAUW National at the end of December. AAUW will mail individual letters of acknowledgment to all donors which can be used as documentation for tax purposes. Donations received after December 1 will be combined with next year's total. Thank you on behalf of the many women you have helped this year!

College and University (C/U)  
Partner Program with AAUW

Geri Madden, Chair - C/U Partners Committee

Last November the Board approved the creation of a special committee to work with our newest College and University Partners: San Jose State University, Evergreen Valley College and San Jose City College as well as with our long time partner, Santa Clara University. These schools join over 500 colleges and universities nationwide who have been enjoying the many benefits of partnering with AAUW. These benefits, made available through AAUW National, include:

- Priority for campus-based project grants and scholarship funding;
- Priority for leadership programs for students;
- Free e-student affiliate memberships for all undergraduates/community college students;
- Cost-saving discounts including The Princeton Review.
- Opportunities for faculty to serve on prestigious panels, gain podium and publication exposure;
- Advocacy for federal policies that support access to education.

Helen Stevens, Diane Trombetta and I are members of the Committee. We welcome other Branch members to join us in learning how the C/U Partner program can benefit our partners and our Branch. For more information, consult your Branch Directory and contact any one of us with your questions. More information can be found at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) under "Connect".

Community Action Projects



**Stanford University: Tech Trek 2013 Summer Camp Destination**

Edna Robison

"Tech Trek is a math/science camp designed to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in young women who will enter eighth grade in the fall. It features hands-on activities in math, science and related fields. All sleeping, eating, instructional and recreational facilities are located on a university campus where camps are held." ([www.aauw-techtrek.org](http://www.aauw-techtrek.org)) Our Branch will be sending six girls to the Stanford summer camp. Middle schools selected by our Branch coordinators have been contacted to ensure a smooth selection process. To be considered, each middle school nominee will have to complete an application form and write an essay on the topic: "Describe one form of renewable energy and how it will improve your community's quality of life". There will also be a face-to-face interview.

The cost for each girl is \$950 this year and we must constantly replenish our funds for future camps. Any Branch member with grant writing skills is welcome to help our Tech Trek program continue yearly. For more information on how to donate money and/or volunteer, please contact me. To those who have already sent their donations, a huge Thank You!

**Spring Forward With "Financially Fit For Life"**

Judy Kristofferson

The members of Financially Fit For Life, AAUW's project to help women address and manage their financial options, will start the new year by expanding its outreach program. If you are interested in spreading financial literacy to girls and women in the San Jose area, join us when we meet on January 14, at 1:30 at Headquarters.

**Tech Museum Field Trip  
Focused on Energy**

Edna Robison

Six AAUW members accompanied a group of 24 Tech Excellence girls from John Muir Middle School to the Tech Museum for a field trip. The overall topic for this trip was energy, with a focus on solar energy. During the class, the girls split into groups to build a city powered by solar cells. One objective was to light up their buildings with the lowest possible amount of money. They discovered that each solar cell cost money, and found ways of making the most use out of one solar cell. The girls also had the opportunity to visit the other exhibits displaying the power of other forms of energy.

Next class: February 7, Thursday, A Morning with Veterinarians. The girls will read X-rays, learn animal anatomy and diseases, and see how a veterinarian performs a dog physical examination and "preps" for surgery. Volunteers are welcome.



**Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Bobbie Baker

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) partners with several local agencies including Family Supportive Housing (FSH) in San Jose. FSH is the only shelter in Santa Clara County that serves single and two-parent families. Homeless families can stay 90 days in a clean, safe environment while finding employment and permanent housing. In January NHN will have two projects involving FSH. The first is our ongoing Cleaning Kit project which involves cleaning kits complete with mop, broom and assorted household cleaning products packed into a large laundry basket and given to families moving into their new permanent housing. These supplies help make the new housing feel like home! Our second project is a beef stew dinner prepared and served for all the residents at FSH on Friday, January 25. Several members of NHN cook up large batches of beef stew which are deliciously mixed together for a wonderful meal. Noodles, salad, rolls and dessert complete the menu. Members of NHN deliver and serve the dinner. If you would like to help out in this dinner, please contact Sally Bailey.



## Branch Programs and Updates - January



Happy Elaine Benoit....a job well done!

### Sweatshirts Gifted To 1350 Teens

Elaine Benoit

Good job, Gifts for Teens, for providing 1410 wonderful gift packages for often overlooked youth! Homeless and needy San Jose teenagers were overjoyed to receive a new warm sweatshirt this holiday season! Sweatshirts, the number-one teen gift choice, are needed in winter and especially appreciated as a holiday gift. Not only was there a cozy sweatshirt in each gift bag but many other things too. Colorful tee shirts, cosmetics, scarves and matching gloves, gift cards and many more fun items were included in duffels and totes distributed to at-risk teenagers in our Valley. These teens thank you for thinking of them and brightening their holidays through your generosity with your time and donations.

## Membership Matters

### NEW BRANCH MEMBERS

Claire Campodonico

ALICE MEYER graduated with a BS in Business Management from the University of Phoenix, having taken all of her course work on line. Having recently moved to the area from Wisconsin with her three daughters, ages twelve, ten and eight, Alice is a full time Financial Planner. Having been an AAUW member in Milwaukee, she quickly found our Branch on the internet. Living close by in Campbell, she has already joined Education Equity and Gourmet Light. Contact: 262-745-1500, [alice.meyer@thrivent.com](mailto:alice.meyer@thrivent.com)

CINDY CHAVEZ graduated from SJSU where her love of politics and commitment to community led her to a career in public service. After eight years of service on the San Jose City Council, including two as vice mayor, she is now executive director of Working Partnerships USA, Silicon Valley's unique nonprofit social change organization founded in 2009. Cindy joined our Branch because she has always admired AAUW. Contact: 408-445-4568, [cindy@atwork.org](mailto:cindy@atwork.org)

SANDY CALGHER earned a BS in Education with an emphasis on Kindergarten and primary grades at SJSU. She taught Kindergarten for thirty-two years; thirty of them in the Franklin-McKinley School District. Sandy has been retired for ten years and loves to quilt. She lives right down the street from our HQ. Marilyn Jackson referred her to our Branch. Contact: 408-971-3834, [pscalgher@gmail.com](mailto:pscalgher@gmail.com)

For Membership information contact Sharon Bouska.

January 2, Wednesday 7 pm

#### **Board Meeting**

Marilyn Jackson

All members welcome.

January 7, Monday 7 pm

#### **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Bobbie Baker

January 8, Tuesday 4 pm

#### **Legal Advocacy Fund Committee meeting**

Mary Barry

January 8, Tuesday 7 pm

#### **Education Equity Committee Meeting**

Alice Lopez

January 14, Monday 1:30 pm

#### **Financially Fit For Life Committee meeting**

Mary Barry

January 15 Tuesday 6 pm

#### **Public Policy Committee**

Gloria Leonard, 408-995-512

January 16, Wednesday 4-5:30 pm

#### **Third Wednesday Program**

"Top Secret Rosies"

Documentary Film, 56 min.

Louise Persson

January 20, Saturday 10 am

#### **AAUW San Jose Branch Program**

*Needed: Adult Role Models*

Cambrian Library

Alice Lopez

January 22, Tuesday, 2 pm

#### **Program Committee Meeting**

Louise Persson

January 28, Monday 9:30 am

#### **Building Committee**

Pat Diamond

### January Meetings and Special Events



The Art Appreciation Group at a recent visit to the Steinbeck museum. Ask them about their lunch in Steinbeck's bedroom.

### **Art Appreciation**

Cheryl Markman

On Wednesday January 9, at 10:30 am, Art Appreciation will meet at St. Joseph's Cathedral, downtown San Jose, for a docent-led tour focusing on its art and history. A donation of \$2 is requested. Afterwards we will have lunch at the San Jose Museum of Art cafe, followed at 12:30 by a private, docent-led tour of the exhibit "Local Color" (and possibly, time allowing, of the exhibit Dive Deep: Eric Fischl and the Process of Painting). Admission to the museum is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors, free for SJMA members. Please contact Cheryl Markman by email if you plan to attend either or both of the tours and lunch or call 408-578-8315.

### **The Fifth Annual AAUW Art Contest**

Attention AAUW artists! Remember the note cards that are sent to you every year? The annual art contest is a great way for AAUW members to showcase their talent. Last year more than 100 entries were received. From January 4 to February 4, you can submit an electronic version of your art on the [AAUW art contest webpage](#). The winning entries will be featured on a collection of AAUW note cards mailed to members this spring. Visit the [AAUW website](#) for more details. Let's watch for a San Jose Branch winner.

Apologies to members of the **Exploring World Literature** Interest Group. You were omitted from the BONFIRE article that recognized the groups donating baskets for the Local Scholarship Boutique in November. Over \$5,000 was raised, thanks to you and all who contributed.

### **Great Decisions Groups Invite New Members**

Maureen Curulla & Jan Palajac

Our Branch's two Great Decisions Groups extend an invitation to AAUW members to join groups now forming for the 2013 season. Coming together to explore eight current topics set by the Foreign Policy Association, we use the FPA handbooks and view DVD interviews by experts to set the tone of discussions led by our members. This coming season, some of the thought-provoking issues we will delve into include the Future of the Euro, Egypt, China in Africa and Threat Assessment.

The AM group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday mornings, February through May, from 9:30 to 11:30 am at Headquarters. A preliminary meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 24. For more information, please contact [Maureen Curulla](#) or by phone at 408-227-4937.

The PM group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:30 pm, January thru August at Headquarters. For more information, please contact [Jan Palajac](#).



### **New Interest Group: Game Night**

Sandee Plymire, 408-280-5799

The first meeting of the new "Game Night" Interest Group will be held on Thursday January 24 from 7 to 8:30 pm at Headquarters. Bring your favorite game and a few munchies and join the fun. This group is inspired by the popular Game Day held each August. Those who show up will decide on what games to play for the evening. The group plans to meet on the fourth Thursday evening each month.

### **November 2012 AAUW Bridge Winners**

Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday, Mary Clare Hopkins, Jackie Chase, Pat Mikolic

Second Monday, Bobbie Eckerman, Pat Mikolic, Barbara Shandera

Second Thursday, Darline Wilson, Bobbie Eckerman

Second Friday (Duplicate), Bobbie Eckerman, Lida Kluzek, Jean Ritchie

Third Friday, Bobbie Eckerman, Wanda Foss, Lida Kluzek

Fourth Tuesday, Mary Clare Hopkins, Darline Wilson

## January Interest Group Calendar



Unless otherwise noted, events are held at Headquarters.

Click on the underlined name of the Interest Group contact and her email address should be revealed. If not, consult your Branch Directory for information. For general information about Interest Groups, contact [Elaine McMahon](#).

**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](#)

January 7, Monday 10 am  
**Bridge**  
[Mary Clare Hopkins](#)

January 14, Monday 10 am  
**Bridge**  
[Rosemary Bush](#)

Dienstag 8 Januar um 11 Uhr  
**German Conversation**  
bei Barbara Snyder  
RSVP an [Barbara Snyder](#)

January 8, Tuesday 10 am  
**Morning Book Discussion**  
*Suite Française* by Irene Nemirovsky  
Joyce Baker 408-259-8343

January 9, Wednesday 10:30 am  
**Art Appreciation**  
Tour of St Joseph's Cathedral Exhibit "Local Color" & lunch  
[Cheryl Markman](#)

January 9, Wednesday 7 pm  
**Evening Book Discussion**  
*Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka  
Led by Christy Piazza  
[Laura Manthey](#)

January 10, Thursday 7:15 pm  
**Bridge**  
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

January 11, Friday 10 am  
**Bridge**  
[Lida Kluzek](#)

January 12, Saturday  
**Gourmet Couples**  
For time & location contact  
[Margaret Bard](#)

January 13, Sunday  
**Film Fans**  
For time & location contact:  
[Linda Snashall](#)

January 14, Monday 10 am  
**Bridge**  
[Rosemary Bush](#)

January 14, Monday 6 pm  
**Gourmet Light**  
[Cheryl Markman](#)  
[Barbara Bettencourt](#)

mardi 15 janvier à 11 heures  
**French Conversation**  
chez Pat Brie  
RSVP an [Pat Brie](#)

January 17, Thursday 7 pm  
**Mystery Lovers Group**  
*The Chinese Maze Murders: A Judge Dee Mystery*  
by Robert van Gulik  
[Diane Canby](#)

January 17, Wednesday 10 am  
**Family History**  
[Barbara Van Arsdale](#)

January 18, Friday 10 am  
**Bridge**  
[Lida Kluzek](#)

January 18, Friday 6:30 pm  
**AAUW Singles**  
[Jean Wyatt](#)

January 20, Sunday 9 am  
**Weekend Walkers**  
Stairs@Communication Hill  
[Jean Reed](#)

January 21 Monday 9:30 am  
**Exploring World Literature**  
*Mexico* by James Michener  
Presenter Barbara Bettencourt  
[Marcia Capella](#)

January 21, Monday 6:30 pm  
**Gourmet International**  
Dinner out – Culinary Institute  
[Arline Veteska](#)

January 22, Tuesday 11:30 am  
**Lunch Bunch**  
Elephant Bar in Campbell  
RSVP by January 20  
[Diana Taylor](#)

January 22, Tuesday 7-8:30 pm  
**Great Decisions**  
[Jan Palajac](#)

January 22, Tuesday 7:15 pm  
**Bridge**  
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

January 23, Wednesday 10 am - noon  
**Friends**  
*Top Secret Rosies*  
repeat of Third Wednesday program (see front page)  
[Marilyn Jackson](#)

January 24, Thursday 9:30 am  
**Great Decisions**  
[Maureen Curulla](#)

January 24, Thursday 7-8:30 pm  
**Game Night** (see article)  
Sandee Plymire, 408-280-5799

January 27, Sunday 4pm  
**BITS:** Stanford Basketball v Colorado  
B In The Seats with BAWSI Girls  
[Laura Manthey](#)

**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**

**LEGAL ADVOCACY ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

**Sunday, February 24, 2013**

**3 - 5 pm**

**UNWINED**, Wine and Bar Shop

6946 Almaden Expressway, San Jose

Donation: \$38 is tax deductible under 501(c) 3

**Wine and Chocolates**

**Speaker:** Elizabeth Kristen, Director of the Gender Equity program and a Senior Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center – and an AAUW member. She has litigated numerous cases involving Title IX athletes at the high school level, and has been a lecturer at Berkeley Law School since Fall 2008.

Contact: Mary Barry by email or 408-227-8429

Checks may be left in LAF folder on the sunporch or mailed to Headquarters. Tickets will be mailed to you.

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 [jjkreed@comcast.net](mailto:jjkreed@comcast.net) with a Microsoft WORD (.doc or .docx) attachment. Please include "AAUW Bonfire (month/2013)" in the subject line. Send calendar items to [doinel@earthlink.net](mailto:doinel@earthlink.net).

*AAUW advances equity for all women and girls, through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.*  
See the San Jose Branch Website at [www.aauwsanjose.org](http://www.aauwsanjose.org) for more information.