

San Jose Branch

**BONFIRE**



Empowering Women Since 1881

**Coming Up**

***The Locavores  
Are Back***

Third Wednesday Program  
January 15, 7 pm

***Does Money  
Really Matter?***

Friends Interest Group  
January 22, Wednesday  
10 am – noon

***Membership  
Open House***

January 30, Thursday  
7 – 8:30 pm

***The World On Stage***

LAF Fundraiser  
February 15, 1-4 pm  
(see back page)

***Dinner with Lilly***

March 7, Friday

***Lilly Ledbetter Speaks***

March 8, Saturday  
1 – 3 pm



**A Woman's Voice  
in Washington**

**Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy  
and Government Relations**

**Tuesday, January 28, 1:30-3 pm**

**De Anza College Campus Center**

**21250 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino Conference Rooms A & B**

As top policy advisor for AAUW, Lisa Maatz works on Capitol Hill, in the White House, and in collaboration with other organizations. She follows, reports upon, and influences legislation affecting women and girls. Lisa is known for her strategic approach to legislation and advocacy. She's also known for her wit and humor!

The AAUW Interbranch Council of Santa Clara County is sponsoring the event. Visit <http://www.aauw-sv-cupt.org/> or call 408-733-4046 for more information. The event is free. On-campus parking costs \$3; both cash and credit cards are accepted.

**Third Wednesday Program**

**The "Locavores" Are Back!**

Edna Robison

"Local and Loving It" is the concept of growing, buying and consuming locally-grown food products to build sustainability within a community and to patronize local economies. Two years ago, a group from AAUW and their friends presented this concept to our Branch members and gave out samples of what they cooked. It was such a hit that we thought we should do it again this year. Please come to our Third Wednesday Program on January 15 at 7 pm at Headquarters to meet our "locavores," led by Sharon Bouska!



Geri Madden, President

Happy New Year to one & all! The New Year is traditionally a time of reflection and resolutions. I was struck at our Holiday Tea last month how we, as a people, reflect not only as individuals but as communities. What are traditions but links to our pasts that encourage us to reflect on where we came from? We learned about the uniquely African American Kwanzaa celebration and its symbols and the story of Chanukah and the menorah. We learned about the special traditions of the Azores in Portugal and imagined ourselves walking through the chilly holiday streets in Germany sipping on delicious mulled wine. Thank you Helen Stevens and Edna Robison for making this happen.

When the program was over, I realized how the event was a tradition that captures many of the values that make our Branch and AAUW so special. I spent an afternoon socializing with many of our friendly and interesting members, I had lots of fun, I certainly ate well and I learned new information about the world around me. This was a classic AAUW San Jose event.

One of the many things I love about our Branch is that we do not ask members to attend boring business meetings but rather work hard to bring you events that are mission-focused and that make for an enjoyable few hours of interaction with other members. My resolution for the new year is to make a more focused effort on reaching out to you, our members, when we have an event. I hope that you will join me in that resolution and promise yourself that you will attend at least one of our upcoming meetings. Keep an eye out for: Lisa Maatz, "The World on Stage", Lilly Ledbetter - and more. When you attend these events, be sure to look for me in the crowd and stop by to say "hi". I would love to meet you.



### **AAUW Funds Awards Community Partner**

Linda Holbrook, AAUW Funds VP

San Jose Branch was gratified to hear that AAUW Funds awarded a 2013 Community Action Grant of \$7000 to the local agency Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence. The Branch has been supporting Next Door for years with volunteer hours and donations (particularly the members of Neighbors Helping Neighbors) and raising awareness in our community about domestic violence. San Jose Branch leaders were contacted for a letter of support to go with the award application. The application was for funding to offer Next Door clients a "Self Sufficiency Program." Next Door advocates help domestic violence survivors understand their options, and through the Self Sufficiency program, help them prepare for the job market, find suitable educational opportunities, and to take steps that help them become independent and safe. We look forward to continuing to partner with Next Door to promote freedom from fear and violence for all women and their families.

### **Education Department to Delay New Civil Rights Data Survey Questions AAUW Washington Update**

The U.S. Department of Education has delayed a significant expansion of its civil-rights data collection that asked more questions about students' civil rights, such as whether schools have Title IX coordinators and how many students were bullied because of their sexual orientation. Questions about discipline and other issues were to be added starting in the 2013-14 school year. Now that information will not be required until the 2015-16 school year. This data collection will provide a critical perspective on the bullying and harassment that students too often endure on the basis of race, sex, and disability. AAUW has been calling for this data to be collected for several years and expressed disappointment that the requirement is being delayed.

### **How the Media Failed Women in 2013**

*Caution: Viewers should find images  
in this YouTube video offensive ...*

A video created by The Representation Project shows how many ways the media has negatively represented women and girls this year. The video includes advertisements by well-known companies and performers, and news clips portraying women and girls in a negative light. "Let's tune in when women are being respected and tune out when they're not."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NswJ4kO9uHc>

Branch Programs and Updates

**Gifts For Teens**

**AAUW Members Help Make  
Needy Teens' Christmas Merrier**

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens thanks all the AAUW members who so generously donated cash or items for the teen holiday gifts bags this year. With your help, Gifts for Teens was able to fill 1,250 holiday gift bags, most of which were distributed to teens served by Sacred Heart Community Center, Bill Wilson Center and Unity Care. For those who helped fill the gift bags, a big thank you is extended as well for your hard work and community spirit.

A special thanks also goes out to Second Harvest Food Bank and Whole Foods Market Blossom Hill for their generous donations of snack food items for the gift bags. Remember, Whole Foods Market Blossom Hill continues their Nickels for Non Profit program through January 19. Simply tell the cashier that you would like to donate the bag refund and 5 cents will be added to Gifts for Teens for each bag. Every nickel counts! The final numbers will be published in February.



Elaine Benoit



**Move It!**

Laura Manthey, Title IX/Sports Equity

If you want your daughter or granddaughter to ace her science classes, get her moving! A recent study, done in England, has shown that girls who were more physically active as "tweens" had higher levels of academic performance as teenagers. The most active girls did really well in science. Although it cannot be proven that increased physical activity is the reason for the improved academic performance, the parents of the girls who were studied were convinced. Get your girls on the track, on the court, in the pool! Get them moving!

**Education Equity Important Meeting**

Alice Lopez

We will have a very important Education Equity Meeting on Tuesday, January 14 at 4 pm. We have two important tasks. First we will review the surveys returned from parents who received the Preschool Summer Activity Bags, and plan for this project to be repeated.

Then we will start to study the Educare Center at Santee School and how we can get involved. Both of these programs focus on empowering mothers to improve educational opportunities for their children.

**2013 Local Scholarship  
Holiday Boutique Wrap-Up**

Cheryl Markman

As we go into the New Year, the Local Scholarship committee wants to extend our thanks one more time to everyone who contributed to and shopped at the Holiday Boutique last November. At the end of the Boutique sales, our earnings stand at \$6648.00. Thank you!!

We also want to remind you that it's not too late to purchase donation drawing tickets for the mini-vacation get-aways to Santa Cruz and Tahoe. You may purchase them at all up-coming AAUW events or by contacting Grace O'Leary at (408) 268-0798. They will be available until 100 tickets are sold for each property.

### **NHN Endorses Grateful Garment Project**

Marilyn Jackson

The Grateful Garment Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing new clothes, food, grooming items, and other necessary items to victims of sexual assault. When a sexual assault victim enters the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) facility for an exam (rape kit), they are typically asked to surrender their clothing to provide forensic evidence. This can leave the victim with nothing to wear home, or worse, deciding to withhold their clothing as evidence. The mission of the Grateful Garment Project is to ensure that every victim of a sexual crime goes home with proper clothing and is provided with items they require to reduce further trauma. Come to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors meeting January 6 to learn more about the Grateful Garment Project and its founder and Executive Director Lisa J. Blanchard. For more information visit the website at [www.gratefulgarment.org](http://www.gratefulgarment.org).



### **NHN - Warm Hearts**

The annual collection of warm clothing for Santa Maria Urban Ministry continues through February. Drop off coats, sweaters, blankets, hats, and gloves in the parlor closet at Headquarters. Please label your donation "Warm Hearts".

### **Lilly Ledbetter, Keynote Speaker at SJSU**

Jacqui Gustafarro and Gloria Leonard  
Co-Chairs Public Policy Committee,

Lilly Ledbetter will be in San Jose on March 7 and 8 where she will attend a dinner and give the keynote address at the South Bay Womyn's Conference at SJSU. The conference, "Deciphering the Code," will focus on how to attract, retain, and mentor women in STEM fields, including how to reach equal pay in STEM professions. Workshops will be tailored for all age groups, students through seniors. AAUW San Jose is a co-sponsor of the conference and members will have an exclusive two-week period in which to reserve tickets for dinner with Lilly. Save the date and watch for further details.

### **A New Strategic Planning Committee Pondering Our Future**

Diane Trombetta

The San Jose Branch Board of Directors recently approved the appointment of a Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) to develop a "roadmap" to guide the Branch for the next 3-5 years. The SPC, chosen from a cross section of our membership, consists of Mary Barry, Sharon Bouska, Jean Boyden, Peg Carlson-Bowen, Ellen DiBiase, Linda Holbrook, Jean Reed, Kristy Rogers, and Diane Trombetta (Chair). Geri Madden is Recorder. The first SPC meeting took place on November 16, and a progress report will be presented to the Board in June. We will be asking for Branch input— your opinions about our Branch and its future, and your experiences as a Branch and AAUW member. We may develop a survey or other procedure to elicit members' opinions, but in the meantime please feel free to send any questions, comments, suggestions, or feedback about the Branch to the committee c/o Diane Trombetta. Thank you for helping to make our Branch the best it can be, now and in the future.

### **Scientific Research Shows Volunteering Promotes Health and Happiness**

Diane Trombetta, President-Elect

"Human beings appear to be genetically engineered to be happiest and healthiest when we spend a lot of time selflessly helping others—and unhealthy when we're mostly devoted to self-gratification," according to a University of North Carolina study (*The Week* September 13, 2013). The genes of the individuals who experienced happiness based primarily on hedonistic pleasures were found to be priming cells to express high levels of inflammation linked to cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. The individuals who emphasized service to others showed a pattern of gene expression linked to stronger immunity.

A longitudinal study that tracked volunteering and well-being over many years in thousands of people showed a causal effect: When a person increased volunteer work, all measures of happiness and well-being increased (J. Haidt, *The Happiness Hypothesis*, 2006). It is equally true that people really enjoy eating, especially in the company of others (Haidt). Do you see where I'm going with this? AAUW-San Jose gives us countless opportunities for meaningful service to others AND delicious snacks at almost every meeting. Want a long, happy and healthy life? And lots of good eats, too? Sign up to volunteer on a Branch committee or Community Action Project!



# AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

## Branch Programs and Updates

### Membership Matters

#### NEW BRANCH MEMBERS

By Claire Campodonico

**CAROL JEAN FITTING** grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. After graduating from Miami University in western Ohio with a BA in English, she moved to California in 1967. She worked as a travel consultant, retiring in 1995. Carol is a past president of our Branch (1997-1998). She is a dual member with Los Gatos-Saratoga. She enjoys traveling internationally. Carol Jean Fitting

**SHARON HARTMANN** has renewed her membership after a break of two years. Welcome back Sharon! Sharon Hartmann

**HELEN HARTMANN-TRAN**, Sharon's daughter, has also renewed her membership after a two year break. Welcome back Helen! Both Sharon and Helen are very active in the International Gourmet group. Helen Hartmann-Tran

**JULIE CARPENTER** was an AAUW member in Hawaii in 2004 and a member in Ohio in 2012. She is new to the area and found our Branch online. She earned a BA in History from Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH and a MA in History from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. She is the manager of the City of Campbell's two historical museums. Julie Carpenter

**DOROTHY S. WILSON** joined our Branch at a Membership Open House. She obtained her degree (BSN) in Nursing from the University of Connecticut. Her career spans over forty years. She is currently working at Kaiser Permanente outpatient clinic in Milpitas. She has known about AAUW since her late mother's time. Dorothy lives in Los Gatos. Dorothy Wilson

**MARY SURGINER** is a graduate of Indiana State University and holds both a BA and a MA in Elementary Education. She has worked in nine different countries on five continents. She resides in Los Gatos and is a past president of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch. She is retired from San Jose Unified School District as a Library Media Resource teacher. Mary Surginer

### Membership Open House

Thursday, January 30 7-8:30 pm

Join us at Headquarters for dessert and hear what AAUW has to offer. Prospective members and current members are welcome. For more information, contact Risë Berry. Please invite your friends to find out about our awesome group. You are the best ambassadors for AAUW!

### Board Notes

#### Nominating Committee Elected

Marilyn Jackson

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: Marty Glanzman, Jill Holdaway, Elaine McMahon, Linda Rowlett, Janice Robbins, and Sharon Shephard. Alice Lopez was elected as an alternate.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for preparing a list of nominees for the elected offices for 2014-2015. Branch members are encouraged to suggest candidates or self-nominate for Board positions: President, President-Elect, Finance Officer, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice Presidents for Program, Membership, AAUW Funds and AAUW Funds-LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund). Elected and appointed officers serve for a term of one year but our bylaws allow two years in the same position. Building Committee representatives are also elected although only the Chair serves on the Board of Directors. Nominees will be elected in April to serve beginning in July 2014. For more information, please contact me.

### In Memorium

Member **Marilyn J. Miller** passed away on October 1. Marilyn and her sister Bev Otter joined AAUW over fifty years ago. A graduate of San Jose State College, Marilyn was a speech therapist, second grade and Head Start teacher and an early member of the San Jose Branch Child Development Study Group. She and Bev participated in a lunch group for over 45 years and were in International Gourmet when it first started in 1969. She is remembered as being a lot of fun and will be missed. Condolences to all her friends and family.



### Pictures

We like to include pictures in the BONFIRE when space allows. Take pictures at your meetings, lunches, dinners, and on your trips. Send them in with an article about your group.

### Great Decisions Starts 2014 Sessions

Judy Kristofferson

The 2014 Great Decisions meetings start this month. Some of the topics that will be covered this year include U.S. trade policy, Turkey's challenges, and defense technology. Morning meetings are at 9:30 on the second and fourth Thursdays. Evening meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month and start at 7 pm. For more information and contact details check the calendar listings.

January 22, Wednesday  
10:30 am-1:30 pm

### Celebrating the 41st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Join Los Altos-Mountain View AAUW and the local Pro-Choice Community as we walk for choice.

Registration is \$2 at the door.

Los Altos Youth Center

1 N. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos  
Myra Orta, 650-968-8476

### Couples Gourmet

Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625

If you think creating gourmet meals is fun, you'll love our group. Each month a Host Couple plan a menu and assign the recipes to the rest of us. Sometimes the assigned recipes are easy and sometimes they are more challenging but the fun is in the experience. We meet on the second Saturday of the month in the host couple's home and share stories about what we've cooked. I think we've all learned a lot since we joined the group. Amazingly, sometimes the easiest recipes to prepare are also the most spectacular and memorable. And sometimes we all agree a given recipe is too awkward to bother repeating! If sharing good food appeals to you, please contact me.

### Friends

Sharon Bouska,  
Interest Group Coordinator

Friends Interest Group will meet on the fourth Wednesday, January 22 at 10 am. Grace O'Leary will share with us what the Financially Fit for Life committee has accomplished in its three years of life, where they are going next, and share a few things about what AAUW California and other branches are doing in this field. Please join us.

### November 2013 AAUW BRIDGE WINNERS

Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday Pat Seaman, Sue Dietz, Jackie Chase, Bobbie Baker  
Second Monday Pat Mikolic, Sue Dietz, Denise Kwan  
Second Thursday Judy Kumagai, Patty Baggese  
Second Friday (Duplicate) Jean Ritchie, Mary Fitzgerald,  
Denise Kwan, Lois Robinson  
Third Friday Judy Kumagai, Lida Kluzek  
Fourth Tuesday Darline Wilson, Virginia Beck

## Meetings/Special Events

January 6, Monday 7 pm  
**Neighbors Helping Neighbors**  
Bobbie Baker

January 7, Tuesday 7 pm  
**Board Meeting**  
Geri Madden

January 13, Monday 1:30 pm  
**Financially Fit For Life**  
Mary Barry

January 14, Tuesday 4 pm  
**Education Equity**  
Alice Lopez

January 15, Wednesday 7 pm  
**Third Wednesday Program**  
"Locavores" Are Back!  
(See article)  
Edna Robison

January 27, Monday 9:30 am  
**Building and Properties Committee Meeting**  
Mary Francis

January 28, Tuesday  
1:30-3 pm  
**A Woman's Voice In Washington**  
(See front page)

January 30, Thursday  
7-8:30 pm  
**Membership Open House**  
Headquarters  
Risë Berry

January 31, Friday 1:30 pm  
**Local Scholarship**  
Grace O'Leary



## January 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](#)

January 6, Monday 10 am  
**Bridge**  
[Mary Clare Hopkins](#)

Dienstag 7 Januar um 11 Uhr  
**German Conversation**  
bei Barbara Snyder  
RSVP an [Barbara Snyder](#)

January 8, Wednesday 9:30 am  
**Art Appreciation**  
Anders Zorn, Swedish painter  
Henri Matisse exhibits  
Legion of Honor  
*Meet at HQ to carpool*  
[Marty Glanzman](#)

January 8, Wednesday 7 pm  
**Evening Book Discussion**  
[The Time in Between](#)  
by Maria Duenas  
Led by Barbara Bettencourt  
[Laura Manthey](#)

January 9, Thursday 7:15 pm  
**Bridge**  
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

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

January 11, Saturday 9 am  
**Weekend Walkers**  
Three Creeks Trail  
[Jean Reed](#)

January 11, Saturday  
**Gourmet Couples**  
*For time and location contact:*  
[Margaret Bard](#)

January 12, Sunday  
**Film Fans**  
*For time and location contact:*  
[Linda Snashall](#)

January 13, Monday 10 am  
**Bridge**  
[Rosemary Busch](#)

January 13, Monday 6 pm  
**Gourmet Light**  
[Barbara Bettencourt](#)  
[Cheryl Markman](#)

January 14, Tuesday 9:30 am  
**Morning Book Discussion**  
[And the Mountains Echoed](#) by  
Khaled Hosseini  
[Joyce Baker](#)

January 16, Thursday 10 am  
**Family History**  
[Barbara Van Arsedale](#)

January 16, Thursday 7pm  
**Mystery Lovers**  
[The Geneva Trap](#) by Stella  
Rimington  
[Sharon Shephard](#)

January 17, Friday 10 am  
**Bridge**  
[Lida Kluzek](#)

January 17, Friday 6:30  
**AAUW Singles**  
[Jean Wyatt](#)

January 20, Monday 9:30 am  
**Exploring World Literature**  
Short stories by Guy de  
Maupassant  
Presented by members  
[Lucy Poindexter](#)  
[Sue Eichenbaum](#)

January 20, Monday 6:30  
**Gourmet International**  
Dinner out: Japanese  
[Arline Veteska](#)

mardi 21 janvier à 11 heures  
**French Conversation**  
chez Susan Hood  
RSVP à [Susan Hood](#)

January 22, Wednesday 10 am  
**Friends**  
Does Money Really Matter? (*See article*) [Sharon Bouska](#)

January 23, Thursday 9:30 am  
**Great Decisions**  
Season kick-off  
[Maureen Curulla](#)

January 23, Thursday 7 pm  
**Game Night**  
RSVP by January 20  
Sandeey Plymire 408-280-5799

January 27, Monday 6:30 pm  
**Gourmet Vegetarian**  
[Jean Wyatt](#)

January 28, Tuesday 11:30 am  
**Lunch Bunch**  
Opa Greek Restaurant  
276 E. Campbell Avenue, Campbell  
[Diana Taylor](#) or (408) 268-2593.

January 28, Tuesday 7 pm  
**Great Decisions**  
[Jan Palajac](#)

January 28, Tuesday 7:15 pm  
**Bridge**  
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)



**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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1165 Minnesota Avenue  
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**PERIODICALS  
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Gay Gale, Linda Goldberg

**Bonfire Staff:**

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**Editorial Staff:** Judy Kristofferson, Linda Rowlett,  
Marilyn Jackson

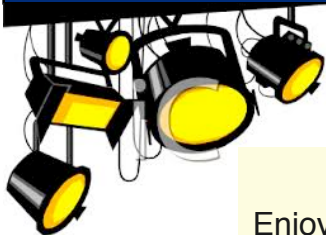
**Distribution:** Alma Powell, Linda Lloyd

**Change of Address:** Linda Lloyd

**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**



# The World On Stage

## LAF Fundraising Event

Enjoy live performances from around the world while supporting our core mission to promote and achieve gender equity.

**Saturday, February 15, 2014**

Le Petit Trianon Theatre  
72 North 5th Street, San Jose 95112

1 pm Silent Auction

2 pm Performance

**Tickets \$25**

(\$10 tax deductible)

To purchase call:

Kathy Bechly (408-768-8271)

Mary Lou Hajduk (408-979-1813)

Eva Levine (408-300-0515)

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](http://www.aauwsanjose.org) for more information.