

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE



AAUW

“Investing In Girls - Women Leading The Way”

Coming Up

**Pros and Cons
Ballot Forum**

September 29, Saturday

1 - 3 pm

See back page.

Give Wisely, Give Well

Financially Fit For Life Program

October 13, Saturday

9:30-11:30

Willow Glen Library

Linda Baliman

lbaliman@comcast.net

Elder Fraud

Third Wednesday Program

October 17, Wednesday

7 pm to 8:30

Headquarters

Led by Deputy District Attorney

Janet Berry

Louise Persson,

louise.persson@gmail.com

EF Luncheon

October 20, Saturday

12 - 3 pm

Sainte Claire Hotel

Diane Trombetta,

tddtaug@yahoo.com

IT'S MY VOTE



AAUW ACTION FUND

FALL EVENT

Saturday, September 8, 2012

10 am-1 pm

**Hamilton and Leigh Avenues
(First Congregational Church)**

Join us at Fall Event, our first big meeting of the year. Enjoy brunch provided by our members and visit the many Interest Groups and Community Action Project displays. Meet friends, new and prospective members, hear our Tech Trekkers tell about their experiences at Stanford Science Camp and meet some of our Local Scholarship recipients.

Help us kick off our “**It’s My Vote: I Will Be Heard**” campaign to educate and mobilize young women for the 2012 elections.



Speaker **Shannon Smith-Crowley** represents AAUW CA before the California Legislature and works to improve communication with AAUW members about legislation. Her expertise is primarily in the field of health policy and delivery, focusing on reproductive health.

Bring a friend! Fall Event is a major event for prospective members. Greet and welcome guests and answer questions they may have and encourage them to join us.

Presidential Sparks

Marilyn Jackson, President

mariack44@sbcglobal.net

“Investing In Girls - Women Leading The Way”

Throughout my teaching career I was concerned about fairness and equitable treatment of our children, particularly our girls. I am still concerned, believing that too many girls in our community and around the world are in crisis. Several of our Branch programs (Tech Trek, Tech Excellence, Scholarship, Gifts For Teens and Money Trek) offer wonderful opportunities for a few. But poverty, crime, homelessness, cuts in health care and education have devastating effects on growth, development and opportunities for girls. This year I want us to “invest in girls” by focusing on their health and education needs. We will use AAUW studies like “Crossing the Line”, the highly-regarded study of sexual harassment in the schools and the 2012 “The State of Women and Girls” report which has revealed challenges for girls and women in Santa Clara County. Through Branch programs I hope to give our members the opportunity to learn, to study the issues, and to work on solutions.

First Meeting of Education Equity Let's Get Organized!

Alice Lopez, enna.lopez@yahoo.com

The re-established Education Equity Study Group will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, beginning September 11. We will begin to study local education issues, establish our priorities, and plan for our Branch role in advocating for quality public education that supports all students. We will focus on the recent study by the Office of Women's Policy, "The State of Women and Girls in Santa Clara County", which identifies education needs for our community. Please come to this important meeting as we begin our study and look for practical steps that we can take to improve education for girls and women locally.



AAUW CA Honors San Jose Branch Members

Virginia Kay Beck, beck_virginia@yahoo.com

AAUW CA has selected Jean Reed, Jean Boyden and Barbara Shaffer as Named Gift Honorees for spearheading the completion of the San Jose Branch Centennial American Fellowship for \$200,000. Under their leadership, this Fellowship was completed in only four years! Their enthusiasm and dedication encouraged the San Jose Branch members to donate 50% of the fund and sister AAUW CA Branches to donate the other 50%. See their recognition on the home page of AAUW CA web site aauw-ca.org. Because of their efforts the first San Jose Branch Centennial American Fellowship was granted in August. Caitlin Gerds is studying at UC Berkeley to improve women's health globally.

More Honors...

Louise Persson, San Jose Branch member, has been appointed to the national AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Committee from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014 by the Board of Directors of the American Association of University Women. The Legal Advocacy Fund Committee oversees the work of LAF and any LAF subcommittees. As a National Committee member who lives in California, Louise will also serve on the State AAUW Funds Development Committee.



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

“AAUW is making an unprecedented investment in making women’s voices heard in the 2012 election”, said AAUW’s President Carolyn Garfen in a recent Public Policy communication. The objective of the “It’s My Vote: I Will Be Heard” voter education and turnout campaign nationwide is to make sure women know what’s at stake and where candidates stand on issues critical to women and girls. San Jose Branch members can participate by:

- Volunteering to staff voter registration tables at farmers’ markets, fitness clubs and local colleges.
- Supporting California 2012 legislation that impacts the AAUW mission by reading bill summaries and signing letters of support (see instructions at Public Policy bulletin board at Headquarters.)
- Attending Pros & Cons Ballot Forum sponsored by Interbranch Council on September 29 at the Camden Community Center.
- Be informed: check the bulletin board at Headquarters for updates on AAUW issues at state and federal levels, including the top five benefits to women in the Affordable Care Act. Issue papers are available by contacting San Jose Branch Public Policy Committee Chair (see above) or at www.aauw.org. Use this information to inform others.
- Contact (postcards available at Fall Event) three young women and urge them to vote this fall.

The effort to broaden recognition of AAUW CA as an informed and trusted advocate for women’s issues among state legislators and elected officials is succeeding. AAUW CA advocate Shannon Smith-Crowley reported that there are now over 10,000 persons signed up for the AAUW CA Action Alert (sign up for AAUW CA Action Alert at <http://www.aauw-ca.org/> (click Public Policy)



As of August 1, 2012, all new health plans must cover eight women’s preventive services, including birth control, without cost sharing. Preventive services are critical to a woman’s health, and cost has remained a burden for far too long. With the Department of Health and Human Services regulations going into effect on August 1, the following services will now be available without co-pays:

1. Breastfeeding support, supplies, and counseling
2. Screening and counseling for interpersonal and domestic violence
3. Screening for gestational diabetes
4. DNA testing for high-risk strains of HPV
5. Counseling regarding sexually transmitted infections, including HIV
6. Screening for HIV
7. Contraceptive methods and counseling
8. Well woman visits.



A Taste of Victory

Presented by Sports Equity

Laura Manthey, LSMant@aol.com

The Sports Equity Team is savoring the taste of victory! We are proud to announce that our efforts to have the text of Title IX and Title IX Coordinator contact information included in high school student handbooks has been successful in several local districts. Flyers which highlight the benefits for girls participating in sports will be distributed to hundreds of incoming freshmen this fall. Posters encouraging girls to exercise their rights under Title IX will be posted at numerous schools. Copies of the AAUW report Crossing the Line have been given to Title IX coordinators and offers to present the results of this study on sexual harassment in our nation’s schools (grades 7-12) have been accepted. It has been inspiring to meet with the Coordinators. We look forward to working with them and helping them to connect with each other during the coming year.

Tech Trek/Tech Excellence

Let's Support Our Middle School Girls!

Edna Robison, e29.robison@yahoo.com

Are you a STEM enthusiast? If so, come to our September 8 Fall Event! Hear our Tech Trek girls speak about their experiences at the Tech Trek 2012 summer camp at Stanford! Jane Guinther, former Tech Excellence Chair and a "dorm mom" (the other was Elaine Benoit) will present the girls. Please visit our tabletop display and sign up to volunteer!

Tech Excellence is also gearing up - thanks to the enthusiastic response from: Elaine Benoit, Susan Dietz, Jane Guinther, Linda Guyer, Nancy Hooton, Lee Hornberger, Ginnie Kissane, Jean Ann Luckhardt, Mary Ellen Madden, Kathy Mangan, Cheryl Markman, Sharon, Neidermaier, and Sharon Burkett! They will help with the following classes at the John Muir Middle School:

- September – **"The Scientific Method"** – Did you know that the "fastest snails are the speckled garden snails which can move up to 55 yards per hour compared to 23 inches per hour of most other land snails"? The girls will learn more fascinating facts on snails.
- October – **Field Trip: Long Marine Labs**
- November – **"Green Technology"** – Practical tips on how to save energy. **Field Trip: Tech Museum (solar circuits lab and energy exhibits).**
- January – **"Aviation"** – Andrea Connell, United Airlines Pilot, will discuss the principles of flight, with time to make airplane cutouts fly! **Field Trip: Hiller Aviation (flight simulation).**
- February – **"Veterinary Medicine"** – The girls rotate to study the anatomy of a dog, read Xrays, give physical exams, and identify animal diseases.
- March – **"Nutrition"** – How to read food labels, measure fat/sugar content, and choose exercises for a healthful living. **Field Trip: Intel Museum (circuit design).**
- April – **Field Trip: SJSU Occupational Therapy**
- May – **Chemistry: Polymers** – Understand molecule cohesion using GAK as medium.

To volunteer, please email me at e29.robison@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Meet the Local Scholarship Recipients at Fall Event

Brenda Ladewig, bladewig@sbcglobal.net

You'll have an opportunity to meet our nine recipients of Local Scholarships at Fall Event and hear more about their future plans. Scholarships awarded ranged from \$500 to \$2000.

Our recipients share our gratitude for your involvement in their education. Josie Bird, one of our scholarship recipients from last year who studies at San Jose State, sent the Scholarship Committee this note:

I just want to take this moment to extend my thank you for the scholarship I received last fall. Without your support, I would never have had the opportunity to have done so well. I am happy to announce that for the first semester, I earned A's in all five of my classes. I even made an attempt at a condensed three week winter course and again earned an A. I am eternally grateful to you all.

As we move towards the Holiday Boutique on November 10, the Scholarship Committee needs donations of baked goods, handcrafted needlework, holiday decorations, small gifts, and items of décor. Please contact Brenda Ladewig at 723-1953 for more information.

Gifts For Teens

Gifts for Teens Holiday Sweatshirt Drive

Elaine Benoit, elaine@gifts4teens.org

Although it's still warm outside, Gifts for Teens is seeking cash donations to purchase cold-weather gear for street kids and low-income downtown San Jose teenagers. Warm sweatshirts are number one on the wish list for these impoverished teens. We would like to provide each teen with a sweatshirt. Funds have already been collected to buy 550 sweatshirts, yet another 800 teenagers will be left out in the cold without some additional donations. Now is the time to make an early holiday tax-deductible charitable donation to buy warm outerwear for the youths. Checks are written to ISPF-AAUW, Gifts for Teens and mailed to 1165 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, CA 95125. Also, a sweatshirt drive can be planned at your work place, school, church, or with your favorite Bunco or card group. Contact Gifts for Teens, Elaine Benoit, for ideas and drive help. Not only will you have warm generous feelings but 1350 snug and toasty teenagers will thank you during the coming cold winter months!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Bobbie Baker, rbaker@sbcglobal.net

In the first week of August, the members of Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) met at Headquarters to pack school backpacks for the children of the Santa Maria Urban Ministry. Each member had previously signed up to bring a needed school supply such as crayons, pencils, folders or rulers. In an efficient but fun assembly-line manner, members soon had 25 back packs brimming with new school supplies. A big thank you to Alice Lopez who organized this successful project.

If you would like to learn more about NHN projects, stop by our table at the Fall Event or come to one of our monthly meetings. We meet generally the first Monday evening of each month at Headquarters. We have several hands-on but short-term volunteer opportunities that are fun and fulfilling. It's an easy and safe way to help your local community and at the same time to meet some very nice people!

Membership Matters

NEW BRANCH MEMBERS

Claire Campodonico, clairecamp@comcast.net

CAROL BIERACH obtained her BA in Painting and Fine Arts from UC Berkeley. After raising her children, she earned her MFA from SJSU. She enjoys painting in her home studio. Carol lives in Campbell and was referred by her stepmother Marilyn Jackson. Contact: #374-1225, cibierach@hotmail.com

TERESA O'KANE attended Santa Clara University for two years before transferring to the University of Hawaii in Manoa where she earned her BA in Economics. For thirty-five years, Teresa has practiced real estate and property development with her husband. She is a published author and a frequent traveler to Africa. She was referred by Marilyn Jackson. Contact: #971-2131, Teresaokane@gmail.com

JANET JACKSON earned her Bachelor of Arts in 1994 from Mills College, a nationally renowned women's liberal arts institution in Oakland. She resides in Berkeley and teaches 4th grade in the Oakland Unified School District. Janet was referred by her stepmother Marilyn Jackson. Contact: #(510) 681-6661, monkeymama@gmail.com

NANCY EKSTEROWICZ recently retired as Director of Risk Management for Valley Transportation Authority. She has known about AAUW since college, and now has time to join. Nancy earned her BS in secondary education from Pennsylvania State University. She is a Certified Child Advocate. Contact: #448-5218, nancigrace@comcast.net

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

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

Branch Programs and Updates - September



Author To Visit Mystery Lovers Group

Diane Canby, dacanby@comcast.net

A seasoned fisherman stumbles upon the mutilated body of a woman on the beach in the opening scene of *City of Veils*. And, once again, Nayir Sharqi and Katya Hijazi are drawn together to help solve the murder in this second book of the series set in Saudi Arabia by author Zoe Ferraris.

The Mystery Lovers Group is very excited to welcome local author Zoe Ferraris to our September meeting where she will talk about her life in Saudi Arabia and about how she has woven those experiences into the plots of her series featuring Nayir and Katya. Ferraris' first book, *Finding Nouf* won the L.A. Times Book Award for First Fiction. Her second book, *City of Veils*, which the Mystery Lovers Group is reading this month, became an international best-seller. Ferraris' third book, *Kingdom of Strangers*, was released in June of this year and is quickly earning critical acclaim.

If you would like to join the Mystery Lovers Group for our 7pm meeting on September 20th featuring author Zoe Ferraris, please email dacanby@comcast.net in order to reserve a spot. Light refreshments will be served.



Do Santa Cruz with Weekend Walkers

Elaine McMahon,
ElaineCMcMahon@yahoo.com

On Sunday, September 15, the Weekend Walkers group will travel to Natural Bridges in Santa Cruz. From there we will walk along the ocean to the Santa Cruz Beach wharf (about a half-hour walk). We will have lunch or brunch depending on the time and hopefully visit the new Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center at the wharf. After lunch we will walk back to Natural Bridges for the ride home. We should return to Headquarters about 3 pm. Meet at Headquarters at 9 am to carpool.

Meetings and Special Events

September 4, Tuesday 7 pm
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Bobbie Baker
rcbaker@sbcglobal.net

September 5, Wednesday 7 pm
Board Meeting
Marilyn Jackson
Marjack44@sbcglobal.net
All members welcome

September 10, Monday 1:30 pm
Financially Fit For Life
Linda Balilman
lbailman@comcast.net

September 11, Tuesday 7 pm
Education Equity
Alice Lopez
enna.lopez@yahoo.com

September 18, Tuesday 1 pm
Local Scholarship
Brenda Ladewig
bladewig@sbcglobal.net

September 18, Tuesday 5:30
Public Policy
Gloria Leonard, 995-5128
Glorialeonard@sbcglobal.net

Give Wisely, Give Well
Financially Fit For Life Program
Judy Kristofferson, doinel@earthlink.net

September 24, Monday 9:30
Building Committee
Pat Diamond
pat.diamond@patdiamond.com

SAVE THE DATE FOR EF
Diane Trombetta,
tddtaug@yahoo.com

Be sure to save Saturday, October 20 to attend the luncheon in honor of our new EF Fellows and to meet our new AAUW-CA president. Noon-3 pm at the Sainte Claire Hotel. More details in the October BONFIRE.

It is a truth universally acknowledged that charity is a virtue. But how do you give wisely and well? The Financially Fit For Life team has assembled the information that you need to be the best possible donor. Attend our October 13 workshop from 9:30-11:30 at the Williw Glen Library and you will learn how to evaluate nonprofits, how to maximize each dollar that you give and the tax advantaged aspects of your philanthropy.

September Interest Group Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, events are held at Headquarters.

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

BITS - An easy way to support equity is to **B In The Seats** at women's sporting events. Jean Reed, jjkreed@comcast.net

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

September 8, Saturday
Gourmet Couples
For time and location contact:
Margaret Bard
MargaretBard@gmail.com

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

September 10, Monday 10 am
Bridge
Rosemary Bush
chezbuero@juno.com

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

September 11, Tuesday 10 am
Tuesday Morning Book Group
The Dovekeeper by Alice Hoffmar
Joyce Baker
Joyvb27@aol.com

September 12, Tuesday 10 am
Family History
Barbara Van Arsdale
barbaravanasdale@yahoo.com

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

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

September 15, Sunday 9 am-3 pm
Santa Cruz Walk (see article)
Elaine McMahon
ElaineCMcMahon@yahoo.com

September 17, Monday 6:30 pm
Gourmet International
Potluck
Arline Vetesla
aveteska@pacbell.net

mardi 18 septembre à 11 heures
French conversation
chez Sharon Potter
RSVP à cpo555@aol.com

September 19, Wednesday
10 am-12 pm
Art Appreciation
Annual Planning followed by lunch
JOHN'S EXCELLENT FOOD
Marty Glanzman
mkgglanzman@att.net

Sept 19, Wednesday 7pm
BITS – Volleyball
Stanford v Cal at Maples Pavilion
Jean Reed, jjkreed@comcast.net

September 20, Thursday 7 pm
Mystery Lovers Group
City of Veils by Zoe Ferraris
SPECIAL: Author Visit (See article)
Diane Canby
dacanby@comcast.net

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

September 21, Friday 6:30 pm
AAUW Singles
Jean Wyatt
wjeanwyatt@aol.com

September 24, Monday 6:30 pm
Gourmet Vegetarian
Jean Wyatt
wjeanwyatt@aol.com

September 25, 11:30 am
Lunch Bunch
MANDARIN GOURMET
5560 Santa Theresa Blvd.
All members are welcome
RSVP by 9/21
Diana Taylor 268-2593
Dgtaylor40@comcast.net

September 25, Tuesday 7 pm
Great Decisions
State of the Oceans
Jan Palajac
jpalajac@yahoo.com

September 25, Tuesday 7:15 pm
Bridge
Bobbie Eckerman
eckshome1@aol.com



Help needed!

If you have time to help the Public Policy Committee register voters, contact Gloria Leonard, Public Policy Chair, at glorialnrd25@gmail.com



"It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard"

PROS AND CONS BALLOT FORUM

Propositions on the November 6 Ballot

AAUW – League of Women Voters San Jose/Santa Clara

September 29, 1 - 3 pm

Camden Community Center

3369 Union Avenue

San Jose, CA 95124

Sponsored by Interbranch Council – Santa Clara County

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Contact Gloria Leonard, 995-5128

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, with a Microsoft WORD (.doc) attachment. Please include "AAUW Bonfire (month/2012)" in the subject line. Send calendar items to doinel@earthlink.net.

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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.