

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE

Empowering Women Since 1881

AAUW National Convention: *Riding the Wave in San Diego*

A personal reflection by [Bobbie Baker](#)

At the San Diego airport, Virginia Beck and I hopped onto the shuttle to take us to the Sheraton Marina Hotel. We were joined by an enthusiastic and lively group from Tyler, Texas, a couple of quiet but friendly women from Illinois, and a single from Washington State. It soon became apparent that we were all about to share a wonderful convention experience!



At the Opening Night dinner, we were introduced and welcomed by AAUW National officers. To get in the spirit of "Riding the Wave" we were shown a film on the history of women surfers. In this male-dominated sport, there were some amazing woman surfers, including the real "Gidget!"

At the Opening Ceremonies on Friday, we were welcomed by the District Attorney of San Diego, Bonnie Dumas. Bonnie began her career as junior clerk typist for the county, while attending law school at night. Now as the D.A. she has a plaque in her office stating "the clerk helping in your division today may be your boss tomorrow!" After her very warm welcome, she advised us to stay out of trouble during our stay!

One of the high points for me was the Women's Leadership Panel on Saturday morning. On the panel was Lilly Ledbetter, who discussed pay equity. There was also an amazing former NFL player, Don Pherson, who shared the unique role men can play in empowering women. The most amazing panelist to me, however, was Noorjahan Akbar, a journalist student from Afghanistan. She used the term "misogynist" frequently in her comments. At first it seemed harsh, but then I realized that is the reality for women living in Afghanistan. Her quiet demeanor and simple statements were powerful.

The days went by quickly with workshops, plenary sessions and plenty of handouts. At many of the workshops, women shared what type of programs worked well for their branches. Most workshops encouraged this sharing of best practices and were not lecture-style presentations. Workshops included topics on Title IX, STEM programs, Membership Retention and How Washington Works.

The best part of the convention, however, was in meeting and connecting with fellow members. I met women from Kentucky, New Jersey, Oregon and Illinois at the workshops. We shared information and shared common problems and successes of our branches. I got an interesting program flyer from one woman while waiting in line for the restroom!

Another lovely part of the convention was spending time with all the San Jose Branch members including Virginia Beck, Jacqui Gustafarro, Brenda Ladewig, Sara Ladewig, Gloria Leonard, Emily Dods, Jean Boyden and Diane Trombetta. We sat together at lectures, met for meals and enjoyed cocktails on the Bay View Lawn.



All in all, I would strongly encourage everyone to consider going to an AAUW convention. The next one is in Washington, D.C., from June 14-17, 2017. It is a wonderful experience and makes you proud to be a part of such a great organization as AAUW.

**AAUW advances equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research**



Bullets from Bobbie

[Bobbie Baker](#) ,
President

- It is a great privilege for me to be President of AAUW San Jose. Thank you for this opportunity, and I look forward to working with many of you!
- I was a science major in college and a clinician for 35 years. A well-written paragraph that nicely transitions into the next one was never my strong point, so I have decided to go with "Bullets."

- Thanks to the Branch, I recently was able to attend the AAUW National Convention in San Diego. It was a wonderful experience and I strongly encourage everyone to go to a National Convention at some time.
- As many of you may know, I was chair and co-chair of Neighbors Helping Neighbors for several years, so it should be no surprise that community action is my area of interest. My theme for this year will be "Women Helping Women."



AAUW-San Jose Board of Directors 2015-2016



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Local Scholarship – Marilyn Jackson/Thea Jacobs

Neighbors Helping Neighbors – Sally Bailey/Karelle Cornwell

Gifts For Teens – Elaine Benoit

Tech Trek – Jane Guinther

Tech Excellence – not yet chosen

Other Branch Positions

College/University Relations – Helen Stevens

Title IX –Sport's Equity Chair – Laura Manthey

Office Manager – Judy Burt

BONFIRE Editor – Jean Reed

Sunshine Chair – Claire Campodonico

Menus and Venues – Peggy Maibaum/Rise Berry

Building and Properties Committee –Linda Holbrook, Pat Brie, Laura Manthey, Judy Ohland, Kathy Myers, Sharon Shepherd, Claire Campodonico and Tracy Bunger

AAUW National Elections: The Results are In!



Every two years, AAUW's national election offers members the chance to share their opinions on proposed amendments to the AAUW Bylaws and Public Policy

Program, as well as to select the members of the national AAUW Board of Directors. The 2015 election was a great success, with 12 percent of our members voting — more than double the 5 percent quorum required by our bylaws.

As a result of the 2015 AAUW National Election, these women will lead AAUW in the coming year:

Patricia Fae Ho (Board Chair), Alicia Hetman (Board Vice Chair), Janet Bungler (Board Finance Vice Chair-appointed), Eileen Hartmann (Board Secretary-appointed); and Directors: Joanna Amberger (appointed), Susan Barley, Malinda Gaul, Anthony Hill (appointed), Ellie Hill, Traci Jensen, Melissa Johnsen, Dot McLane, Rebecca Norlander, Glenda Price and Pam Thiel.

With the exception of the proposal to eliminate a degree requirement for membership, the AAUW Bylaws changes were accepted. The vote was 41% for and 56% against changing the degree requirement.

All proposed changes to the AAUW Public Policy Program were approved. Among the changes were repositioning of statements supporting Title IX enforcement and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to reinforce their importance and emphasize AAUW work on these issues, which has long had strong member support and remains a topic of state-level advocacy efforts. (See sidebar for a surprise!)

For details about the AAUW Bylaws and Public Policy Program ballot issues, please see the [AAUW National Election Voter Guide](#).

Archive Surprise

[Marilyn Jackson](#), Archive Committee

Written by Alice Paul in 1921, a year after women won the right to vote, the Equal Rights Amendment was first proposed to Congress in 1923. Opposition to the amendment came from many, often unexpected, directions. Would it surprise you to learn that before 1971, AAUW did not support the ERA? AAUW disagreed with the tactics of the ERA, but not with equality or the amendment itself.

This is the report from the San Jose Branch President from 1952-53:

At the request of the National AAUW Status of Women Committee, there was an extensive study of the Equal Rights Amendment. A committee of six San Jose Branch members came to the unanimous conclusion that they were opposed to the amendment.

"Following a report to the Branch Executive Board, the Board voted to accept the committee report and authorized the sending of a letter to the National Legislative Chairman, and the National Status of Women Chairman stating that our branch is opposed to the Equal Rights Amendment. Mimeographed copies of the report made by the committee giving the reasons for opposing the amendment are to be prepared and included in the bulletin sent to all branch members."

After investing 50 years of study in the topic, the ERA finally became a top AAUW priority. Yet now, in 2015, the Equal Rights Amendment still has not been ratified.

WANTED

Membership Treasurer

Familiarity with Access preferred. Lovely working conditions. (Headquarters - you'll get a key!)

Duties are processing annual renewals and maintaining the Membership Database.

Friendly staff (Membership Committee). Please contact [Nanci Eksterowicz](#)



PUBLIC POLICY

Women's Equality Day Luncheon 2015

[Gloria Leonard](#), Public Policy Co-Chair



You are encouraged to join us for the Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women's Annual Equality Day Luncheon at the beautiful Mexican Heritage Plaza Pavilion on Friday, August 28. Then on Saturday there will be a 'Rally and March through Downtown San Jose' (see below).

We promise a delicious lunch with 250 of our local leaders dedicated to advancing the needs of women and girls. Get highlights on the state of women & girls in Santa Clara County as we mix and mingle, celebrating women's strength and spirit.

Our program proudly features an inspirational keynote by Carissa Phelps, a Mexican-American author, attorney, and advocate for sexually exploited runaway children and homeless youth. She is known as the subject of the award-winning documentary, *Carissa*, directed by David Sauvage. The 2008 film revisits her life as a sexually exploited runaway child living on the streets of Fresno involved in various petty crimes and probation violations, as well as grand theft auto. Teaching herself mathematics and working to overcome numerous rapes, sexual exploitation, and substance abuse and addictions, she eventually graduated with an MBA and a law degree from UCLA. She is the founder of *Runaway Girl, Inc.*, which advocates for runaway and homeless youth, while providing training for organizations to effectively reach out and address homelessness and human trafficking. In 2012, her life story was told in the book, *Runaway Girl: Escaping Life on the Streets, One Helping Hand at a Time*.

Contact Gloria to reserve a place at the AAUW table. [Reserve your ticket](#) early as the event is always at capacity. \$50 (general) or \$25 (senior or student).



"Rally and March through Downtown San Jose"

National Women's Equality Day – Silicon Valley

Saturday, August 29, 8:00 am – 11:30 am

Celebrating the 95th anniversary of a women's right to vote

Free event: [register online](#) (headcount needed)

Contact [Louise Perrson](#) for more information

Everyone is welcome!

Edie Kerr Memorial Scholarship

[Marilyn Jackson](#),

Local Scholarship Co-Chair

The Local Scholarship Committee proudly announces the Edie Kerr Memorial Scholarship in honor and memory of our mentor and friend. Edie had 65 years of AAUW memories. She followed her year as President of the San Jose Branch (1957-1958) by always finding new ways to be involved. In the year 2000 Edie became Chair of the Local Scholarship Blue Ribbon Committee which has awarded more than \$185,500 scholarships to women who are entering their junior or senior year at a university. Edie inspired us, not only because of all the things she did in the name of AAUW, but because of her spirit, her life-long commitment to improving the lives of women and girls and her dedication to working her entire life on things that improve the lives of others.

If you would like to contribute to the Edie Kerr Memorial Scholarship, make your check payable to: ISPF AAUW. Please put "Edie Kerr Memorial" on the memo line and mail or drop it off at Headquarters: 1165 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125. Local Scholarship is a 501 (C) (3) project administered by the AAUW Interbranch Special Project Fund.

Building and Properties Committee 2015-2016

San Jose Branch is fortunate to have our own home, but as with any home, it takes a lot of work. The eight-member Building & Properties Committee shares the responsibility of seeing that our home runs smoothly. Contact the appropriate member about any concerns or urgent problems at Headquarters. If no one can be reached, contact any other member on this list. Contact numbers are also posted at Headquarters.

Co Chair: [Laura Manthey](#)

Co Chair/Board Rep: [Sharon Shephard](#)

Secretary: [Pat Brie](#)

Treasurer: [Linda Holbrook](#)

Supplies: [Claire Campodonico](#)

Maintenance and Landscaping: [Tracy Bunger](#), [Judy Ohland](#) and [Sharon Shephard](#)

Calendar and Keys: [Kathy Myers](#)

Please contact Kathy to reserve Headquarters for any meeting or function or if you require a key for access. The [online calendar](#) may be checked for availability but space must be reserved with Kathy.

I LOVE BRIDGE



June 2015 AAUW BRIDGE WINNERS

[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

First Monday: Wanda Foss, Lida Kluzek, Pat Mikolic

Second Monday: Alma Powell, Margery Eperson

Second Thursday: Nancy Valby, Judy Hart

Second Friday (Duplicate): Darline Wilson, Mary Fitzgerald, Mary Ellen Heising, Jean Kudlick

Third Friday: Leela Viswanathan, Alma Powell, Bobbie Eckerman

Fourth Tuesday: Bobbie Eckerman, Darline Wilson, Judy Hart



Membership Matters

New Member Profiles

[Claire Campodonico](#)

[SONIA WRIGHT](#) earned an AA from Umpqua Community College (where she was Director of Public Relations for 18 years), a BS in Journalism and an MS in Educational Policy and Management from the University of Oregon. She also holds a Certified Fund Raising Executive Credential. Sonia entered the world of professional philanthropy at Napa Valley College as their Foundation Executive Director. She was a United Way volunteer for over 20 years. She joined SJSU last year as the Director of Development for the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. Previously, she has been an AAUW member in Roseburg OR, Napa and Siskiyou County. She will be our Branch's representative at SJSU.

[SARAH LADEWIG](#) began her studies at Foothill College. Her undergraduate degree from California State College-Chico is in recreation/hotel management. Earlier this year, she completed her MS in Global Business Leadership at the University of San Diego. She has worked up and down the California coast, from the wine country to Baja, in the hospitality management industry. Sarah has worked and travelled internationally in more than 37 countries. Her mother, Brenda, referred her to our Branch.

Thinking Ahead

[Jan Giroux](#), Gifts For Teens

It may only be August, but Gifts For Teens has been busy buying practical and fun items for our holiday gift bags for needy teens. Our goal this year is to fill 1,300 bags including a warm hooded sweatshirt. This item, along with shoes, are the most needed and appreciated gifts. Through the generosity of a Shark Foundation Grant, Gifts For Teens will be able to provide shoe gift cards for each bag. However, we are short of our goal for sweatshirts.

So, how can you help? Cash donations of any amount would be greatly appreciated and used to purchase the remaining sweatshirts. Other needed items include store gift cards, men's socks, toiletries (regular size shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, cosmetics), and small handheld games and playing cards.

New item donations can be left at AAUW-San Jose Headquarters in the marked bin in the parlor closet. Please put your name and address inside the bag of donations. Questions: contact [Elaine Benoit](#) at (408) 268-9654. Giving just a little can mean a lot to a needy teen.



Congratulations

US Women's National Soccer Team

In July, the US Women's National Soccer team became world champions, [winning](#) the World Cup for the first time since 1999. The United States defeated Japan 5-2, including a hat trick from midfielder Carli Lloyd. The game marked the final World Cup for veterans Shannon Box, Hope Solo, Abby Wambach, and Christie Rampone--the first forty year old to play in a World Cup match. The success of these players and the popularity of this tournament can be credited in part to [Title IX](#), as the veterans are in the first wave of women to grow up with Title IX funding for sports in their high schools and colleges.

And here is yet another illustration of the pay gap. Despite being the most watched soccer game in US history, the U.S. Women's World Cup team will only be earning \$2 million. This amount pales in comparison to the \$35 million collected by the winning German men's team of the World Cup last year. Even when standing in 11th place last year, the U.S. men's team earned \$7 million more than the winning U.S. women's team this year.



Alma Powell

celebrated her 95th birthday on July 23. She was the center of attention at both the 1st Monday and 3rd Friday Bridge Groups where she plays regularly.

Each group had a cake in her honor and sang Happy Birthday. Even if you don't attend Bridge, Alma's name should be familiar to you. You see her name on the back page of every issue of the BONFIRE. As a member of the BONFIRE staff, she has been labeling each issue and delivering the copies for mailing for many years. She has deciphered the detailed instructions in the US Postal regulations and developed a good relationship with the mailing staff. We could not produce the BONFIRE without her help. So in addition to wishing Alma a very Happy Birthday, we want to add a great big Thank You!

In Memoriam

Elise Funk was Branch President from 1988 to 1989. She had been living in Lincoln, CA where she was an active supporter of getting a new library. In San Jose, Elise worked at SJSU and held many leadership positions in the Branch.

Chris Osborne was Branch President from 1969 to 1970. She held many leadership positions in the Branch. For many years Chris edited the newsletter at San Jose City College, where she worked. She was also a volunteer at the Thrift Box for many years.

Edie Kerr was Branch President from 1957 to 1958. She was an active member of AAUW for more than 60 years, serving in many Branch positions, starting interest groups – most recently "Friends," the daytime program for members who cannot get out in the evenings – and leading the Local Scholarship Committee for many years. Edie was an ardent supporter of AAUW, proud of the many members she recruited and the Branch she founded in Northern California when she found herself living in a city without a local branch.

Branch members and friends are deeply saddened by losing three close friends and inspirational leaders in such a brief period of time.

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

New!

The calendar looks different! We are now using a single calendar for scheduling Branch events and use of Headquarters. Look at the [Branch Calendar](#) anytime on-line. Items in BLUE meet at Headquarters. Those in RED meet elsewhere. It's a new view of the same busy schedule that we're all used to.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at Headquarters. To schedule a meeting, check the [Branch Calendar](#), then contact Kathy Myers. RSVP means that the group needs to know who will attend.

Weekend Walkers meets most Saturdays and Sundays at 8 am for an hour-long walk. To receive weekly emails about walks, contact [Jean Reed](#).

- Mon Aug 3 9:30am - 12:30pm **Bridge** RSVP [Pat Mikolic](#)
7:00pm - 8:30pm **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** [Sally Bailey](#)
- Tue Aug 4 10:00am - 11:45am **Deutsche Unterhaltung** RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#)
- Thu Aug 6 1:00pm - 3:00pm **Membership Committee** Marty Glanzman
- Fri Aug 7 5:30pm - 10:00pm **Weekend Walkers** - *The Tempest* (Oak Meadow Park) RSVP [Jean Reed](#)
- Sat Aug 8 **Couples Gourmet** - Member's home RSVP [Margaret Bard](#)
- Sun Aug 9 **Film Fans** RSVP [Linda Snashall](#)
- Mon Aug 10 10:00am - 1:00pm **Bridge** RSVP [Rosemary Busch](#)
6:00pm **Light Gourmet** - Member's home RSVP [Cheryl Markman](#)
- Mon Aug 10 1:30pm - 3:30pm **Financially Fit For Life** [Mary Barry](#)
- Wed Aug 12 **Art Appreciation** - Santa Clara Triton Museum (Native American Art) [Jan Bartolotta](#)
- Thu Aug 13 7:15pm - 10:00pm **Bridge** - Member's home RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#)
- Fri Aug 14 10:00am - 2:00pm **Bridge** RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#)
- Tue Aug 18 10:00am - 11:45am **Français – conversation** RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#)
6:00pm - 8:00pm **Public Policy** [Jacqui Gustafarro](#)
- Fri Aug 21 10:00am - 2:00pm **Bridge** RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#)
6:30pm - 8:30pm **Singles Potluck** [Isabelle Wright](#)
- Mon Aug 24 9:00am - 10:30am **Building Committee** [Sharon Shephard](#)
6:30pm - 8:30pm **Veggie Gourmet Potluck** Jean Wyatt 408-262--3372
- Tue Aug 25 11:30am **Lunch Bunch** [Elaine McMahon](#)
7:00pm - 8:30pm **Great Decisions** [Jan Palajac](#)
7:15pm - 10:00pm **Bridge** - Member's home RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#)
- Thu Aug 27 6:30pm - 8:30pm **Game Night** - RSVP by Monday Sandee Plymire 408-280-5799
- Fri Aug 28 11:30am - 1:30pm **Women's Equity Day Luncheon** - Mexican Heritage Plaza Pavilion
Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy \$50 [Gloria Leonard](#) or [Reserve on-line](#)
- Sat Aug 29 8:00am - 11:30am **National Women's Equality Day Rally & March** Downtown San Jose [Louise Perrson](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Sat Sep 12 9:30am - 1:00pm **Fall Event**

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Distribution: Alma Powell

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 *Established 1909*

Fall Event - "Off to a Good Start"

Date: Saturday, September 12

Time: 9:30 am– 1 pm



Where: First Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose (corner of Hamilton & Leigh)

Contact [Marty Glanzman](#) if you would like to help with this event.



Plan to bring new blankets, clothes for newborn to 9 months and/or disposable diapers to help needy moms give their babies a "good start" through the Sacred Heart Community Center Layette Drive.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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