

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE

Empowering Women Since 1881

**Saturday, March 12****8am - 1:30pm****Mexican Heritage Plaza****Strong Girls, Strong Women Leadership Conference**[Louise Persson](#)

The award-winning fourth annual Strong Girls, Strong Women conference brings together thoughtful, committed women and girls for discussion and education about the state of girls in our community.

This year's Strong Girls, Strong Women conference is **Saturday, March 12, 8am - 1:30pm, at the Mexican Heritage Plaza**, and is co-sponsored by AAUW San Jose and the Office of Women's Policy. Financial support is also provided by the Commission on the Status of Women. Strong Girls, Strong Women has been named a Top Ten Program by AAUW-CA, and recognized by city, county and state governments.



Last year more than 300 girls and women joined in this powerful opportunity for growth and empowerment.

Strong Girls, Strong Women is a dynamic and exciting experience for students and adults, and AAUW members, their families, and friends. All high school girls and their allies are encouraged to attend. The conference includes a screening of the documentary film "Killing Us Softly 4," an examination of the way the media stereotypes women and girls. AAUW members will provide three workshops on finances for students and adults. Other workshops include STEM, body image, healthy relationships, meals prepared by demonstration chefs and more. One of our Local Scholarship winners, Maria Pina Carrasco, is featured on the luncheon panel of women leaders. A dozen branch members have volunteered to help with registration, meals or classrooms.

The conference is free and breakfast and lunch are included. [Pre-registration](#) is required. Interested in volunteering? Our members love this fun and meaningful event. You can spend an hour, or the day. To volunteer this year, contact [Louise Persson](#).

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



Bulletin from Bobbie
[Bobbie Baker](#), President

**“In Like a Lion,
Out Like a Lamb”**

On March 12, our award-winning program, Strong Girls, Strong Women, will be held at the Mexican Cultural Center. There is a need for volunteers and parking is plentiful, so contact [Louise Persson](#) if you can help or would like to attend!

Early in February you received your AAUW Funds letter. I like the ability to choose which fund to support. I’m looking at the Sacramento 100 Anniversary Fund and my favorite, Eleanor Roosevelt. What appeals to you?

Candidates for new leaders for our Branch will be announced at the March Board meeting. Thanks to all, but especially Edna Robison, who has stepped up to be President next year! In the next few months, Edna will be filling various appointed positions. If she asks for your help, please consider accepting a role.

This year, Easter is early - it falls on my birthday! I think it’s the first time that has happened. I’m planning a family gathering to celebrate both events! To everyone who celebrates at least one of these auspicious events, enjoy the day!

BOARD MATTERS

At the February Board meeting:

- It was announced that the Branch can now accept credit cards at Open Houses or for Local Scholarship.
- San Jose Branch dues will be waived for College Reps serving at our four college partner campuses. This puts the San Jose Branch in agreement with AAUW CA and AAUW, both of whom waive membership dues for Campus Reps.

Program Development Committee Promotes Branch’s Strategic Plan

[Janice Robbins](#)

As programs were discussed and developed this year, goals of the Strategic Plan (SP) and the AAUW Mission were part of the planning process. Most recently, "The Valley of Heart's Delight" event at Cooper Vino addressed SP Goals 1-3: becoming more visible and active in the community; consistent growth in the size, retention and diversity of our membership; and, advancing the AAUW Mission and the Branch vision. We partnered with local valley businesses (honey, chocolate/caramels, wine, cheese and dried fruit) to raise funds for LAF and AAUW Funds.

The November program regarding Human Trafficking included education and outreach to key local agencies to promote a "focus on education, equity, and positive societal change for women and girls" per the San Jose Branch Vision. This event also addressed SP Goals 1 and 3.

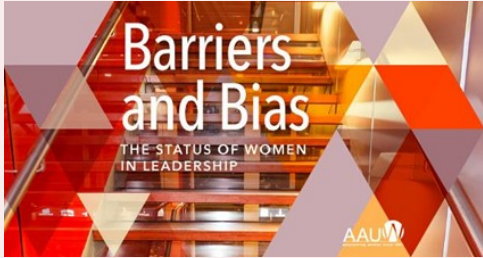
On May 21, we will offer a program that will look at "Muslim Women in America - Beyond the Stereotype." Zahra Billoo from the Council on American-Islamic Relations (C.A.I.R.) and Maha Elgenaidi from Islamic Network Groups (ING) will discuss this topic and share their views with our community. SP Goals 1, 2 and 3 will be addressed, as they are at Fall Event and at the Strong Girls, Strong Women conference.



Lost and Found

[Laura Manthey](#), Building & Properties

If you leave an item at Headquarters, you might find it in the "Lost and Found" tub in the back entry hall. We’ve found everything from glasses to knitting to binders and notebooks, even car keys! If items are not claimed within a month, they will be discarded.



Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership AAUW's Latest Research Report

Women have been leaders throughout history, and today the tradition of volunteer female leadership continues to flourish. Yet in terms of paid leadership, women's elevation to top positions is relatively rare. Women make up about 50 percent of the U.S. workforce but only 4 percent of chief executive officers at Standard & Poor's 500 index companies, 19 percent of S&P 500 board seats, and only about 26 percent of college and university presidents. In politics, women represent 19 percent of the U.S. Congress and a smaller fraction of governors. These numbers beg the question, Why do men still vastly outnumber women in leadership positions?

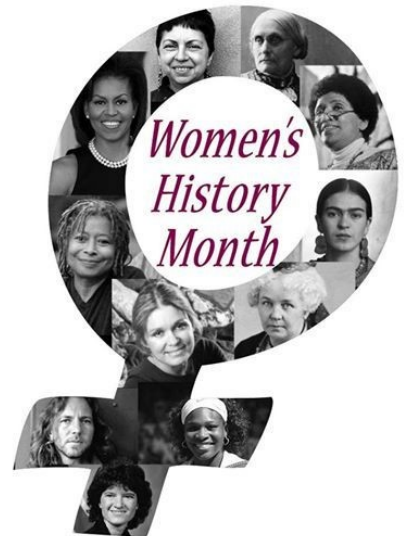
AAUW's newest research report, "Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership," explores this question, drawing from scholarly research and paying special attention to stereotypes and bias. The report provides recommendations for individuals and those in the education, corporate, and political sectors to contribute to an environment in which gender is no longer a barrier to leadership. Plan to attend the Watch Party at Headquarters on March 30 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm to view the launch panel webcast from Washington DC. The full report will be available on the [AAUW website](#).

Women's History Month Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government

Jacqui Gustaferra & Gloria Leonard, Public Policy Co-Chairs

March is Women's History Month and the 2016 theme announced by the National Women's History Project is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government." For many Americans, women's history begins and ends with the Susan B. Anthonys and Elizabeth Cady Stanton of the suffrage movement. While these ladies are important historical figures worthy of recognition, there are countless others who have shaped our world. Who has influenced you? In AAUW, Eleanor Roosevelt is a standout in our celebration of women who dedicate their lives to public service and social justice. Historically and currently, women are engaging themselves in our endeavor to make our nation more equitable for women and girls despite the challenges facing

them; gender discrimination and other barriers to education or opportunities. Side by side, AAUW members and women in public service and government (and their numbers are growing) advance and promote equity in economics, education, voters' rights, health and reproductive rights. The Public Policy bulletin board will display a selection of women in public service and government for your information and recognition during 2016 Women's History Month. Please feel free to add to the selection.



Applications Available for Local Scholarships

[Thea Jacobs](#), Local Scholarship

Do you know a woman who will be a junior or senior in college during the 2016-17 school year? Please encourage her to check out the criteria for applying for a Local Scholarship. Applications for Local Scholarships will be on our website starting March 1. The deadline for applying is April 15. Applicants need to be enrolled as juniors or seniors in a four-year institution fall quarter or semester 2016, have a minimum GPA of 3.00, and a permanent home address in San Jose, Milpitas, Santa Clara or Campbell. Information for prospective recipients will be sent to community colleges, Santa Clara University and San Jose State.

After applications are received, they are screened by a subset of the Local Scholarship Committee. Those selected are then interviewed by another committee group. We anticipate announcing the recipients of the scholarships in mid- May, awarding a total of about \$45,000.



MEDIA MATTERS

Communications Committee Welcomes New Member

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the newest member of the Communications Committee. [Esther Ludlow](#) will be assuming the duties of managing the Branch's Facebook page. We are very excited to welcome her to our team! We are, however, still looking to add members to the Media Relations and the Outreach and Public Relations subcommittees; contact the [Communications Team](#) if you or someone you know would be interested in joining us.

Have a Problem at Headquarters? Building and Properties (B&P) Can Help!

[Laura Manthey](#), Building & Properties

- Did the power go out?
- Did the furnace stop working?
- Did you notice that a faucet is dripping or a light bulb is out?
- Emergency (such as a fire)? Call 911!

Non-emergency, but needs attention promptly? Do not attempt to fix it! Contact a B&P member for urgent issues. Find the list of B&P members on the hall bulletin board. Call a maintenance person. If one cannot be reached, contact the Chair. If she cannot be reached, call or email any other member of the committee. Leave a brief message if you cannot speak to a person.

Once you have alerted a committee member to the problem, leave a note on the report form that is on the refrigerator, listing the date, problem, who was contacted, and your name. This way others using Headquarters will know the issue is being addressed.

If it is a non-urgent maintenance issue, you don't need to call. Just leave a note on the report form on the refrigerator. B&P members will check the list when they are at Headquarters and make every attempt to remedy the situation as quickly as possible. Again, this will alert others that the problem has been reported.





A Little Means A Lot

[Jan Giroux](#)

Did you know that your monetary donation or volunteer time, no matter how big or small, goes a long way toward helping the teens we serve? Every year, Gifts for Teens sees smiles of appreciation from grateful parents and teens when they receive the gift bags or totes stuffed with needed and fun teen items. One teen boy in a group home shared, "If not for the gift bag, I would have gone without so many of the included items." Another teenage girl showed her thanks by making us hot chocolate. Your kindness and generosity makes this all happen.

The dedicated Gifts for Teens committee does not work in isolation throughout the year. During 2015, over 625 people assisted the committee in our endeavor. This included donors, volunteer workers and 29 estimated knitters and bow makers. In addition, students and families from four schools worked on donation drives. Gifts for Teens is grateful to all of these selfless individuals who help make our annual gift giving a reality. Thank you for sharing our vision.

Symposia: "Prequels and Sequels"

[Mary Ann Carnevale](#)

"Prequels and Sequels" or "Looking Back and Moving Forward," is a continuation of Symposia's February meeting. Join us as we review the opportunities of our generation in comparison to today's generations. We meet at 10am at Headquarters on March 24. Contact [Mary Ann Carnevale](#) (408-506-1945) for more information. In true Symposia style, our discussion is usually followed by lunch at one of the local restaurants, so allow yourself time.



"AAUW California
Empowering You"

2016 AAUW CA Convention/ Annual Meeting

April 15 - 17
Marriott Hotel
1770 S. Amphlett Blvd,
San Mateo

AAUW-CA has just published [detailed information](#) on the upcoming convention/annual meeting, including profiles of convention speakers and descriptions of break-out sessions. Note that "early bird" registration ends on February 26. New members are encouraged to attend.

Through the Leadership Development donation from Ruby Trombetta, funds are available to cover registration fees for up to 6 members who have not attended any AAUW or AAUW-CA convention. Please contact President-Elect [Edna Robison](#) if you plan to attend, carpool, and/or wish to avail yourself of the free registration from the Branch - first come, first served!

Membership Matters

New Member Profiles

[Claire Campodonico](#)

[SANDY MORY](#), born in Michigan but raised in Tacoma, Washington, earned a BS in Nursing from the University of Washington. Continuing her studies, Sandy attended Santa Clara University to receive her MA in Catechetics. After a career in nursing, she became a Pastoral Associate for Santa Teresa Catholic Church in San Jose. Now retired, Sandy is Voter Service Chair for the League of Women Voters in San Jose and Santa Clara. She was referred to our Branch by Mary Barry.

[SUSAN McCALL](#) graduated with a BA in Social Science with an emphasis in History from San Jose State University. She was employed as an educator in San Jose until her recent retirement. Susan volunteers at her church, at RAFT and at Tzu Chi Foundation. Her interest in history has led her to her current passion of genealogical research. Her friend Elisa Martinez referred her to our Branch.



AAUW Morgan Hill 33rd Annual Wildflower Run

Sunday, April 3
Live Oak High School in Morgan Hill

Fundraiser for AAUW Funds, Tech Trek and local scholarships for women and girls

10K Run, 5K Run/Walk/Stroll with Kids' 2K Fun Run

NEW: Senior 2K (ages 60+)

Free Jamba Juice Smoothies and T-shirts

Details www.WildflowerRun.org

Family and Group rates

To register (reduced registration fees through March 24):

Online registration for individuals and groups through RaceMine.com

Online registration for individuals and families through Active.com

Collaboration Coffee Recap

[Elin Bolt](#), Local Scholarship



On January 24, the Resource for Recipients (RFR) Committee, a subcommittee of the Local Scholarship Committee, hosted a Collaboration Coffee at Headquarters. Attendees included several past scholarship recipients and guests, as well as AAUW members from the College and University Relations Committee and representatives from their Campus Partners, Financially Fit for Life and Local Scholarship. The purpose of the coffee was to provide an informal setting in which these young women could identify ways in which members of our Branch could assist them in areas where they most need support and guidance.

The young women were very forthcoming with diverse, intelligent and creative suggestions and ideas, which sparked a lively and thought-provoking discussion among all of the attendees. The coffee ended with everyone enthusiastically agreeing that we should meet again in the next few months to see where this exchange of ideas has taken us and where we can go in the future. In fact, three of these young women are already collaborating to create a presentation to promote AAUW as a whole, and specifically to highlight events such as Strong Girls, Strong Women, ElectHer, \$tart \$mart and the Local Scholarship program. They plan to present this soon to various groups at Evergreen College. Stay tuned for further developments!



“There is not a human being from whom we cannot learn something if we are interested enough to dig deep.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

January 2016 Bridge Winners

[Bobbie Eckerman](#)



First Monday: Jackie Chase, Alma Powell
Second Monday: Alma Powell, Judy Kumagai, Leela Viswanathan
Second Thursday: Nancy Valby, Darline Wilson, Bobbie Eckerman
Second Friday (Duplicate): Joan Benedetti, Barbara Shandera, Bobbie Eckerman, Mary Ellen Heising
Third Friday: Leela Viswanathan, Lida Kluzek, Mary Fitzgerald
Fourth Tuesday: Patty Baggese, Sue Dietz

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

MARCH CALENDAR

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

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

Tue Mar 1	10am - 11:45am Deutsche Unterhaltung (RSVP Barbara Snyder)
Wed Mar 2	7pm - 8:30pm Board Meeting - Social Time from 6:30 (Bobbie Baker)
Mon Mar 7	9:30am - 12:30pm Monday Bridge (RSVP Pat Mikolic) 7pm - 8:30pm Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Sally Bailey)
Tue Mar 8	9:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Morning Book Group <i>Clementine: The Life of Mrs Winston Churchill</i> by Sonia Purnell (Maggi Benson) 10am - 11:30am Espanol conversacion - Parlor (RSPV Nancy Toledo)
Wed Mar 9	Art Appreciation - Legion of Honor - Pierre Bonnard & Lady with a Unicorn (RSVP Jan Bartolotta) 6pm - 6:45pm Title IX/Sports Equity (Laura Manthey) 7pm - 8:30pm Wednesday Night Book Group - <i>The Master Butcher's Singing Club</i> by Louise Erdrich (Laura Manthey)
Thu Mar 10	9:30am - 11:30am Great Decisions (Maureen Curulla) 7:15pm - 10pm Bridge (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Mar 11	10am - 2pm Bridge Duplicate (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Mar 12	8am - 1:30pm Strong Girls Strong Women (Louise Persson) See front page 6:30pm Couples Gourmet (RSVP Margaret Bard)
Sun Mar 13	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Mar 14	10am - 1pm Bridge (RSVP Rosemary Busch) 1:30pm - 3:30pm Financially Fit For Life (Mary Barry) 6pm Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Mar 15	10am - 11:45am Français - conversation (RSVP Barbara Snyder) 6pm - 8pm Public Policy Jacqui Gustaferra
Wed Mar 16	7pm - 8:30pm Third Wednesday — "Planning the Future" (Marie Arnold)
Thu Mar 17	10am - 12pm Family History (Susan Brundage) 7pm - 8:30pm Mystery Lovers - <i>Natchez Burning</i> by Craig Iles (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Mar 18	10am - 1pm Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Singles Potluck (Isabelle Wright)
Mon Mar 21	9:30am - 11:30am Exploring World Literature - <i>When the Doves Disappeared</i> by Sofi Oksanen (Marcia Capella) 4pm BeInTheSeats at Lincoln High School Girl's Softball (Laura Manthey) 6:30pm - 9pm International Gourmet (RSVP Brenda Ladewig)
Tue Mar 22	11:30am Lunch Bunch Srambil'z, 5055 Almaden Expressway (RSVP by March 20 Janice Robbins) 7pm - 8:30pm Great Decisions PM (Jan Palajac) 7:15pm - 10pm Bridge (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Wed Mar 23	10am - 11:30am Symposia MaryAnn Carnavale
Thu Mar 24	9:30am - 11:30am Great Decisions (Maureen Curulla) 7pm - 9pm Game Night - RSVP by Monday (Sandee Plymire 408-280-5799)
Mon Mar 28	9am - 10:30am Building Committee (Laura Manthey) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Veggie Gourmet Potluck (Jean Wyatt 408-262-3372)
Wed Mar 30	12:30pm - 2:30pm AAUW Barriers & Bias Watch Party (Janice Robbins)

SAVE THE DATE

- April 3 **Weekend Walkers** at the Wildflower Run – Fundraiser for AAUW Funds/Morgan Hill – details at www.WildflowerRun.org
- April 15-17 **AAUW CA Convention** San Mateo Marriot Hotel (see article)
- April 30 11:30am – 2pm **Annual Meeting** at Three Flames on Meridian Avenue

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

President: Bobbie Baker

BONFIRE Editor: Jean Reed

Editorial Staff: Sue Covey, Elin Bolt, Maude Houston

Distribution: Linda Guyer, Alma Powell

Change of Address: Kathy Heihn

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.

San Jose Branch

AAUW Headquarters

1165 Minnesota Avenue

San Jose, CA 95125-3324

Phone: 408-294-2430

PERIODICALS

POSTAGE PAID

AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



**3rd Wednesday Program
Our City Forest – Planting the Future
March 16
7 - 8:30 pm**



Come to our 3rd Wednesday talk to learn how [Our City Forest](#) works with San Jose to beautify and "green" our city. Renae McCollum, a former AmeriCorps service member and the current Community Relations Manager at Our City Forest, will highlight this local environmental non-profit's exciting programs, planting services and opportunities for AAUW members.

For 23 years, Our City Forest has raised funds to green parks, schools and streets throughout the greater San Jose area. Its "boots on the ground" team of arborists, project managers and service interns conduct tree plantings, maintenance, lawn conversions and education classes year-round to grow a greener, healthier Silicon Valley. Join us for this presentation and learn how you can help our urban ecosystem flourish!

Contact [Marie Arnold](#) with questions.



Empowering Women Since 1881



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