

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE

Empowering Women Since 1881

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Soiree

June 6
6:30 pm -8:30 pm
Headquarters

*Soirée*TM

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) invites you to our third annual soiree. It will be the final meeting of this Community Action Project for the current year and an end-of-the-year get-together for Branch members. NHN will provide wine, soft drinks, appetizers and desserts. This year, we are supporting two organizations. One is [The Women's Gathering Place](#) which provides meals, support and a safe place to rest for women without a home. The other organization is Santa Maria Urban Ministry, which provides basic services and education to those in need. In support of these organizations, please bring a donation of new underwear, large size Depends, or protein items (such as peanut butter, canned meat or tuna, beef stew, etc.) Contact [Karelle Cornwell](#) with questions.



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



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

It has been a privilege to be president of AAUW San Jose this past year! I want to thank everyone who helped me during my term.

Just a reminder – please renew your membership if you have not done so already! Show your support for our Branch and avoid taking the time of our Membership team to call you.

Again, thanks for everyone’s support and assistance. I’ll be BACK!

BOARD MATTERS

- At the May meeting, the Board approved offering free 2016-17 Branch memberships to four Local Scholarship recipients who will graduate in 2016.
- Copies of the latest AAUW research report **Barriers and Bias** are available now at Headquarters.
- Expense vouchers for reimbursement must be turned in before June 14.



AAUW CA Convention 2016: “Empowering You!” [Edna Robison](#)

Did you know that other branches also ask how to attract young members? I shared the solution that our Branch adopted: give local scholarship recipients the opportunity to volunteer. We learned how each age group differs: 23 -40 years old are “mission-focused” and “task-oriented;” 40 to near retirement age seek both mission and social connection; and older women look for mentoring opportunities. One young Tech Trek Mom shared that her group goes out for mixers at a winery. Collaborations with colleges and universities also encourage young women to join AAUW. I shared that our Branch collaborated with Evergreen Valley College through Women’s Studies to sponsor two film showings of “The Hunting Ground.” Some branches use Speech Trek to introduce high school girls to AAUW. At the convention, three girls talked about “Gender Bias and Inequality.” Take time to [listen](#) to them. Public Policy discussions gained traction at the convention. I shared my experience when I served “Wage Gap” cookies to my tennis team, explaining to them that they were eating the \$0.21 that was missing in a woman’s paycheck! The convention ended with fair pay advocate Aileen Rizo [sharing her story](#).

Let’s speak up and build our teams with young women! Let’s get to work!

Thank you for sponsoring Bobbie Baker and me to attend the AAUW CA’s 93rd Convention on April 15, 16 and 17! Other Branch attendees: Sharon Bouska, Elaine Benoit, Gloria Leonard, Harriet Tower and Virginia Beck.

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

All Aboard!
[Edna Robison](#)

Welcome, 2016-2017 Board and Committee Members!

President: Edna Robison

Co-Presidents-Elect: Sharon Bouska, Bobbie Baker

Finance Officer: Virginia Beck (also Chair of Finance Committee and IBC Representative)

Secretary: Sarah Janigian

Treasurer: Suzanne Doty

Program VP: Janice Robbins* (also Chair of Program Development Committee)

AAUW Funds VP: Vanessa Aldaco

AAUW Funds VP (Legal Advocacy): Louise Persson

Membership Co-Vice Presidents: Margaret Bard*, Sue Swackhamer*, Anne Andrews, Sandra Bonnet

Building and Properties Committee Members: Claire Campodonico*, Tracy Bunger*, Kathy Myers*, Sharon Shephard*, Kathy Bechly, Helen Gendler, Bernice Redfern, Pat Skavdahl

Past President: Bobbie Baker (also Chair of Nominating Committee)

Community Action Projects Chair: Elaine Benoit (Gifts for Teens), TBD (Local Scholarships), TBD (Financially Fit For Life), Sally Bailey and Karelle Cornwell (Neighbors Helping Neighbors), Jane Guinther (Tech Trek)

Interest Group Coordinator: Susan Brundage (appointed)

Parliamentarian: Linda Snashall (appointed, advisory)

* *Continuing*

Building and Properties Committee and Membership Committee will elect their own chairs/directors. Only the chair will have a vote on the Board.

Welcome also to members who will take the lead in the following events/functions:

Strong Girls, Strong Women: Louise Persson, Beverly Bassett

College/University Relations: Alyce Athanasiou and Geri Madden, assisted by Diane Trombetta

Third Wednesday Programs: Jean Reed, assisted by Risë Berry and Peggy Maibaum

Menus and Housing: Risë Berry, Peggy Maibaum

Communications Committee: Website (Elin Bolt, Elizabeth Guimarin); Facebook (Esther Ludlow); Media Relations (Linda Guyer); BONFIRE (Anne Wustrow); Directory Editor (Elaine Peterson)

Bylaws (Policies and Procedures): Open

Finance Committee: Virginia Beck (chair), Jean Boyden, Brenda Ladewig, Elaine McMahon, Barbara Snyder, Pat Diamond, Suzanne Doty (Treasurer)

Membership Treasurer: Kathy Heihn

Office Manager: Judy Burt

Sunshine Chair: Claire Campodonico

We are currently looking for Public Policy and Bylaws (Policies & Procedures) committee chairs. If interested, please contact [Edna Robison](#).

Attention All 2016-2017 Board and Committee Members

President Edna Robison encourages you to attend

Board Training

July 9 9 am – 2 pm at Headquarters

There will be a potluck lunch.

Virginia Beck has kindly agreed to be our Board trainer.

PUBLIC POLICY

[Jacqui Gustafarro](#) and [Gloria Leonard](#), Co-Chairs, Public Policy

Calling All Millennial Voters



Politicians and policymakers routinely make decisions about issues that directly affect women and families, including our paychecks, access to reproductive health care, and education funding. But more often than not, these conversations lack women's voices. To create real change, women must be part of the conversation, and the most powerful place for us to chime in is at the polls. The AAUW Action Fund advances equity for women and girls through members' activism and voter mobilization (see AAUW Action Fund mission statement at

[aauw.org.](#)). While political rhetoric can be exhausting, the issues at stake are too important for us to get "turned off" and disengaged from public policy. AAUW Action Fund has launched the 2016 "It's My Vote, I Will Be Heard" campaign and is offering training to state and branch public policy members.

A new national [poll](#) by ABC News showed that about half of millennial women are more interested in the 2016 election than they were in the 2012 election. While there is an uptick in interest among millennial women, the poll also showed that only 58 percent of the respondents were certain that they would vote in November. AAUW members are represented in all demographics on age and gender of voters and non-voters. Members are also informed and engaged voters, and we need to use our voices actively to encourage the millennial and underrepresented women in our lives - family, friends and friends' children - to register and to vote. California voters can register to vote online at the Registrar of Voters for their county. An excellent unbiased site for local and state voter information is the League of Women Voters website, <http://votersedge.org/ca>. Important dates can be found on the Public Policy bulletin board at Headquarters and on the Branch Facebook page.

California Legislation Update on Bills of Interest

SB 899 (D-Hueso) - Gender bias in pricing. This bill was discussed at a recent Third Wednesday program sponsored by the Public Policy Committee. A provocative and amusing video (Ellen DeGeneres) about marketing a popular brand of ballpoint pens was shown. The pens are being marketed to women consumers by making them pink and charging more for them than generic colored pens. Members learned that gender-based pricing discrimination, sometimes referred to as a "Tampon Tax" (because some women's hygiene products are taxed whereas men's similar products are not), is happening nationwide. In California, however, we are pleased to report that SB 899 (D-Hueso) is moving forward in the current legislative session and is having a Third Reading in the Senate Judiciary Committee. There have been other laws passed to end gender bias in pricing and services, but a loophole exists when it comes to all sales. In 1995, state Senator Jackie Spear (D-San Mateo), now a Congresswoman, sponsored a bill to end sex-based price discrimination. However, in order to secure passage of the bill, she was forced to limit its coverage to services like haircuts and dry cleaning. Examples of gender-pricing differences include: walking canes - 12%; children's shirts - 13%; shampoos and conditioner - 48% (source: NY City Dept. of Consumer Affairs study based largely on prices charged at nationwide retail chains in most states). The bill would specify that a price difference based specifically on gender-neutral reasons for having an increased cost of providing the goods is not included within this prohibition. Pricing discrimination remains and is a serious problem for women and their families. Members are asked to join in the support of this bill through responding to Action Alerts. For more information, contact [Gloria Leonard](#).



AB 1676 (D-Campos) - Employers: salary information. This bill is being heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the Branch Public Policy Committee is tracking it for advocacy action. The bill addresses pay inequity in the public sector by prohibiting employers from seeking job candidates' salary histories. By removing past salary history from the hiring determination, AB 1676 will help ensure that employers will not be able to use a history of low pay as justification for continuing to underpay women.

Keys for Headquarters

If you no longer need your key to Headquarters or you now need a key, Kathy Myers will be available at Headquarters the following dates and times to distribute keys.

- June 29: 4-5 pm
- July 11: 12-1 pm
- July 14: 10-11 am



If you are unable to turn your key in or to obtain your key at these times, call Kathy Myers at 408-476-1514. Thank you for your cooperation.

Local Scholarship Awards

[Cheryl Markman](#)

Thanks to the generosity of AAUW members, AAUW-San Jose Local Scholarship is granting over \$57,000 in scholarships this year. Members of the committee screened 27 written applications and selected 15 of the applicants to be interviewed. Each of the interviewees has been awarded a scholarship in an amount ranging from \$2000 to \$5000 each. Recipients will be attending SJSU, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, Cal Poly and CSU Stanislaus.

Two special named scholarships were awarded. The Edie Kerr Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$5000 was awarded to Briana Hernandez. She will be attending UC Santa Cruz majoring in Human Biology or Cognitive Science. The Ruby Trombetta Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$4000 was awarded to Diana Merino. She will be attending UC Berkeley majoring in Political Economy.

Thanks again to all of our donors and to all of you who supported our Holiday Boutique! Without you we would not be able to help make this difference in the lives of so many bright and talented young women.



Local Fundraising Event Gives Boost to Gifts for Teens

[Jan Giroux](#), Gifts for Teens

The Silicon Valley Gives Day of Giving on May 3 was a great success for Gifts for Teens. As one of the many local non-profit charities registered, a sum of \$8,300 was donated to Gifts for Teens. The shopping list for our holiday gift bags is long and this will help towards purchasing much-needed items like warm sweatshirts. Thank you to all who generously donated and selected Gifts for Teens as a recipient. You have made a difference in the lives of many homeless and low-income teens in the Bay area.

Raffle Winner supports AAUW Funds

The winner of the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor House Raffle is Sharon Bouska! The sale of raffle tickets earned AAUW Funds and the Legal Advocacy Fund a total of \$1,400! The winner was announced at the AAUW San Jose Annual Meeting on April 30 at the Three Flames Restaurant. We would like to thank Diane Trombetta and her family for generously donating a three-night stay at their beautiful Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor home. And enjoy, Sharon!

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

Claire Campodonico

CLAIRE KELLY, a Willow Glen resident, has driven by our Headquarters many times wondering what AAUW was all about. Recently, she went on-line and liked everything she learned about our organization. Claire earned her BSN, Bachelors of Science in Nursing from SJSU. She began her career as a Registered Nurse at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City. She is presently a school nurse for Harker Schools. She treats elementary, junior high and high school students as each Harker site employs a full-time nurse. Mentoring girls in-need has been a long-time goal. Her hobbies include reading and hiking.

AMY BOCEK is a native of southern California but recently relocated to San Jose. She earned her BS in Communications and Business from Texas Christian University in May of 2015. She is currently employed by Nimble Storage, a tech company, as a Human Resources Coordinator. Amy recently attended the "\$tart \$mart" workshop where she first learned of AAUW. She is a grateful recipient of a "Gift-a-Grad" membership. Amy was referred to our Branch by Geri Madden.



**June 7, 2016
Presidential Primary
Vote!**



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

At the May meeting of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, 16 women from this Community Action Project made 16 blankets which will be donated to the Linus Project. The Linus Project provides homemade blankets to children in need.



Renewal Dues Reminder
[Membership Committee](#)

Many of you have already renewed your membership for next year. The deadline of June 1 is upon us, but it's not too late to send in your dues. If you want to avoid a personal call from one of our membership VP's, then please return your [renewal form](#) and check to Headquarters ASAP. Contact [Kathy Heihn](#) with questions.

April 2016 AAUW BRIDGE WINNERS
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

- First Monday: Jackie Chase, Pat Seaman
- Second Monday: Leela Viswanathan, Rosemary Busch, Pat Seaman
- Second Thursday: Judy Hart, Bobbie Eckerman
- Second Friday (Duplicate): Mary Ellen Heising, Sandy Bonnet
- Third Friday: Darline Wilson, Judy Kumagai, Alma Powell
- Fourth Tuesday: Darline Wilson, Sandra Savage



May 2016 AAUW BRIDGE WINNERS
[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

- First Monday: Bobbie Eckerman, Alma Powell
- Second Monday: Barbara Shandera, Judy Kumagai, Bobbie Eckerman
- Second Thursday: Cancelled
- Second Friday (Duplicate): Lida Kluzek, Alma Powell, Mary Ellen Heising
- Third Friday: Cancelled
- Fourth Tuesday: Cancelled

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

JUNE/JULY 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](#).

Wed Jun 1	7pm - 8:30pm Joint Board Meeting at Viva's Los Gatos from 6pm (Bobbie Baker)
Thu Jun 2	10:30am - 12:30pm Family History - Planning & Potluck (Susan Brundage)
Sun Jun 5	1pm - 3pm Tech Trek Ice Cream Social - Cambrian Library 1780 Hillsdale Ave (Jane Guinther)
Mon Jun 6	9:30am - 12:30pm Monday Bridge (RSVP Pat Mikolic) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Neighbors Helping Neighbors Soirée (Sally Bailey)
Tue Jun 7	Presidential Primary - Vote! 10am - 11:45am Deutsche Unterhaltung (RSVP Barbara Snyder) 7pm - 9pm Get Acquainted New Member Party (Marty Glanzman)
Wed Jun 8	6pm - 6:45pm Title IX/Sports Equity (Laura Manthey) 7pm - 8:30pm Wednesday Night Book Group - Memory of Water by Emmi Itaranta and Sherwood Nation by Ben Parzybok (Laura Manthey)
Thu Jun 9	7:15pm - 10pm Bridge (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Jun 10	10am - 2pm Bridge Duplicate (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Jun 11	6:30pm Couples Gourmet (RSVP Margaret Bard)
Sun Jun 12	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Jun 13	10am - 1pm Bridge (RSVP Rosemary Busch) 1:30pm - 3:30pm Financially Fit For Life (Mary Barry) 6pm Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Jun 14	10am - 11:30am español conversacion (RSPV Nancy Toledo nantoledo@comcast.net)
Wed Jun 15	10am Art Appreciation Los Gatos Art/History Museums (RSVP Jan Bartolotta) 7pm - 8:30pm Third Wednesday
Thu Jun 16	7pm - 8:30pm Mystery Lovers (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Jun 17	10am - 1pm Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Singles Potluck (Isabelle Wright)
Mon Jun 20	9:30am - 11:30am Exploring World Literature - Year End Luncheon - The White Lioness by Henning Mankell (Marcia Capella) 6:30pm - 9pm International Gourmet (Jan Bartolotta)
Tue Jun 21	10am - 11:45am Français - conversation (RSVP Barbara Snyder) 6pm - 8pm Public Policy (Jacqui Gustafarro)
Thu Jun 23	7pm - 9pm Game Night - RSVP by Monday Sandee Plymire 408-280-5799
Sun Jun 26	12pm - 5pm Local Scholarship (Sandra Savage)
Mon Jun 27	9am - 10:30am Building Committee (Laura Manthey) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Veggie Gourmet Potluck (Jean Wyatt 408-262--3372)
Tue Jun 28	11:30am Lunch Bunch - Pho Wagon, 1712 Meridian Ave. (RSVP by June 24 to Elaine McMahon 408-723-8004) 7pm - 8:30pm Great Decisions PM (Jan Palajac) 7:15pm - 10pm Bridge (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Jul 8	10am - 2pm Bridge Duplicate (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Jul 9	9am - 2 pm Board Training (Edna Robison)
Mon Jul 11	6pm Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Thu Jul 14	7:15pm - 10pm Bridge (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Jul 15	10am - 1pm Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Thu Jul 21	7pm - 8:30pm Mystery Lovers - Share & swap "Beach Reads" (Sharon Shephard)
Tue Jul 26	7pm - 8:30pm Great Decisions PM (Jan Palajac) 7:15pm - 10pm Bridge (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Event 2016: Saturday, September 10 10 am
at the First Congregational Church fellowship hall (corner of Hamilton and Leigh)

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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.

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PERIODICALS
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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Third Wednesday Program



Valley Politics Comes to AAUW
June 15, 7 pm
at Headquarters

Please plan to join us for a unique opportunity to learn about local/state politics (and more) when Terry Christensen, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus, San Jose State University Department of Political Science comes to AAUW.

Terry is a specialist on state and local politics. He has authored or co-authored 9 books, directed the SJSU political science department's internship program, and served as the Founding Executive Director of [CommUniverCity San Jose](#), a partnership between the City of San Jose, SJSU, and the neighborhoods surrounding the university. They concentrate hundreds of students to perform community service with projects selected by residents and supported by the city, including Friends of Five Wounds Trail and [BART Alum Rock Transit Village Advocates](#) (BARTVA).

In 2015, Terry became the host of *Valley Politics*, a monthly TV show focusing on politics and public policy in San Jose and Silicon Valley produced by CreaTV. The monthly TV show airs Wednesdays @ 8pm and Saturdays @ 9pm on Comcast Channel 30. Episodes can also be viewed on [YouTube](#).

Empowering Women Since 1881



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