

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE



Empowering Women Since 1881



A Holiday Boutique

Saturday, November 12

10 am - 3 pm

AAUW San Jose Headquarters

1165 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose 95125

Themed Gift Baskets, Handcrafted Items, Holiday Decor, Goodies from the Kitchen

Credit cards, Checks and Cash accepted

Proceeds support our AAUW Local Scholarship Project which awards college scholarships to women working toward a four-year degree.

Gifts for Teens Holiday Gift Bag Assembly

Calling all volunteer elves! Join Gifts for Teens and spread holiday joy by helping to prepare gift items and filling 1,250 duffles and colorful totes with fun and needed items for local low income and homeless teens. Sign up now - shifts fill up quickly.

Where: Cambrian Park Plaza, 14934 Camden Avenue, San Jose (corner of Union Ave, just off Hwy 17)

When: December 1 to December 12 - 3 hour morning and afternoon shifts

Volunteer: Groups sign up with [Cheryl Markman](#); individuals sign up with [Kathy Heihn](#)

Donate: Contact [Elaine Benoit](#) to donate cash for purchasing needed items or in-kind items like store/fast food gift cards or small hand held games.

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



President's Corner, [Edna Robison](#)

Focusing on Positive Societal Change

“No talk, no mistake” is an old saying repeated by my father when he was alive. Yet, he made sure that all his children went to college to give us the opportunity to find our own voice and participate in public discourse. I am happy to belong to an organization that nurtures this and aims to “provide visible leadership to support all women and girls; vigorously recruit and retain a diverse membership; and focus on education, equity, and positive societal change.”

Our Branch speaks on behalf of college students preparing for the “working world” by learning how to negotiate for equitable positions and salaries, working women or women in transition who would like to have the same earning power as their male counterparts, and victims of school bullying and sexual assault.

Election is also finally here! Let us study the issues, get out and vote, and set our “mainsail” to positive societal change!

BOARD MATTERS

- Just like the NBA has players on the bench to help in critical plays, our branch needs to “warm” our own bench. That’s how Virginia Beck, Past President, former AAUW-CA Director and now our Finance Officer, describes the Board’s role in developing leaders for the future. Please be prepared to be called on by the Nominating Committee to help our Co-Presidents-Elect Sharon Bouska and Bobbie Baker lead the Branch next year.
- The Board approved the 2016-2017 Building Fund Budget (details were published in the October 2016 BONFIRE) and the General Fund Budget, as follows: Total Income: \$14,028.00; Total Operating Expenses: \$14,519.95. The balance of \$491.95 will come from General Funds, if needed. Note: The Ruby Trombetta fund will go towards Membership Recruitment, Fall Event, College/ University Relations, Financially Fit for Life, Strong Girls Strong Women, Leadership Development, and Banners.
- Mandatory Bylaws from AAUW, due January 31, 2017, will be reviewed by the Bylaws Committee, currently composed of [Linda Snashall](#) and Sandra Bonnet. Policies and Procedures will also be reviewed at the beginning of 2017. Please contact Linda Snashall if you would like to serve on this committee.
- Due to concerns from some members, personal information and roster of members will no longer be available on our website. The Directory will be sent via email to those who have computers and personal devices. Hard copies will be available to those who do not have email access and anyone who asks for it.
- Membership total for September 2016 was 296, up by three from last year’s 293.
- All Branch members are encouraged to attend the General Meeting on “School Bullying: Statistics, Stories and Solutions” on Saturday, November 5. Bring your friends.
- The Work Smart Pilot Project workshops are underway. Please contact [Janice Robbins](#) for more information.

Our LAF: Why We Stand Proud

[Louise Persson](#)

AAUW's own Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) is the largest legal fund in America focused solely on [sex discrimination](#) against women. What exactly is sex discrimination? It's discrimination in hiring or firing. It's unfair pay, job assignments, it's lack of promotions or training opportunities. It's pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault - and more.

Why is the Legal Advocacy Fund necessary? Because challenging sexual discrimination isn't a fair fight. Often one woman or a few women are battling a large company with vast resources. Think Wal-Mart. Think Cornell University. Think the U.S. military. That's why the LAF exist - to help balance the scales and ensure that women can seek justice. LAF has disbursed nearly \$2 million to more than 100 plaintiffs - victims of sexual discrimination. Almost all of the funds come from AAUW members' generous donations to LAF.

In a current LAF case, four servicewomen are suing the Department of Defense. These women endured sexual assault and rape while on active duty, some while they were deployed overseas. Each woman tried to seek justice through the military's system, but they weren't provided fair hearings or protected from retaliation. With AAUW's support from LAF, we can shine the light of public opinion on a situation often hidden from view. Publicity on these cases can bring change in the military for all women who serve.

When our Legal Advocacy Fund supports women suffering from sexual discrimination, our financial support can make all the difference - and the emotional support LAF provides, letting women know they aren't alone, makes these lawsuits not only possible, but bearable. We can be proud of the pioneering work of our LAF, bringing justice to women in California and across the nation.

PUBLIC POLICY

New California Laws to Bring Justice to Victims of Rape and Sexual Assault

[Gloria Leonard](#), Public Policy Committee

California legislators sponsored bills to bring justice to victims of sexual crimes, allowing them to seek justice in criminal courts and increasing potential penalties for people convicted of certain sex crimes. The increase in potential penalties was inspired by the Stanford University sexual assault case that sparked national outrage this spring. Among the bills signed into law by Governor Brown are:

AB 701 – (Garcia D-Bell Gardens) – the definition of rape will include penetration by any object against the will of a person unconscious or incapable of consent. The definition aligns California's Penal Code with the FBI's definition of rape and will allow prosecutors to seek tougher penalties.

AB 2888 (Low D-San Jose) – will ban judges from granting probation to people convicted of sex crimes against an unconscious or severely intoxicated victim. The law will end a discrepancy in sentencing and requires prison for anyone convicted of sexual assault involving penetration.

SB 813 – (Leyva D-Chino) – Justice for Victims Act. The law removes the arbitrary statute of limitations for victims of rape and related felony sex crimes in the state of California. Regardless of when a rape or sexual assault is reported or discovered, victims can seek justice in the criminal courts. "The new law provides a path to legal justice and puts predators on notice that they will be held accountable." (California Women's Law Center, 9/28/16)

Speaking on AB 2888, Assembly member Low (D-San Jose) said "Sexually assaulting an unconscious or intoxicated victim is a reprehensible crime, and now our laws better reflect that. Sentences like those in the Brock Turner case discourage other survivors from coming forward and sends the message that raping incapacitated victims is no big deal." Assembly member Dodd said "I want to thank Governor Brown and my fellow legislators for standing with victims and building a culture that will help prevent these appalling crimes. Thanks to this law, convicted felons like Brock Turner will no longer be able to avoid state prison."



What's Inside Those Teen Holiday Gift Bags? Here's A Peek.

[Jan Giroux](#)

A little magic and a lot of hard work go into filling the Gift for Teens holiday bags for needy San Jose teens. Each year is a bit different depending on corporate/foundation grants being received and the generosity of local businesses, schools, donors and people like you. For example, in 2015 each bag contained:

A \$25 shoe gift card and a \$20 in-store gift card for 1,281 teens

A hand knit scarf with matching gloves for 700 girls

Hygiene kits with toothbrush/toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.

Fun teen items like cosmetics, jewelry, snack food and small games added an extra touch

A warm hoodie sweatshirt

Additionally, 3 skateboards, a scooter and over 50 sport balls were donated, making some teens' holiday a bit brighter

It's not too late to get involved in 2016. Check out our website: <http://www.gifts4teens.org/gifts4teens.org/Welcome.html>. For more info, contact [Elaine Benoit](#) to donate cash or in-kind items like store or fast food gift cards, or sign up for the holiday gift bag assembly.

Third Wednesday Program

MIY: Make a "Gift For Teens"

November 16 at 7 pm

Here's another way you can help with the Gifts For Teens this year. Join us for a MIY evening – that's Make It Yourself. We will make fringed fleece scarves for the gift bags. No sewing skills are required. Bring sewing scissors if you have them and a ruler. We'll be at Headquarters on November 16 from 7 pm and hope to have a nice stack of gift-wrapped scarves by 8:30. We can do this. Hope you'll come and help! Contact [Jean Reed](#) with questions.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Warm Clothing drive organized by Neighbors Helping Neighbors will continue until March. If you have gently used coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, scarves, warm hats or sleeping bags that you don't need, you can bring them to Headquarters. There are bins in the parlor closet for the clothing. The warm clothing is donated to Santa Maria Urban Ministry's Warm Hearts program. If you have questions, contact [Barbara Shaffer](#).



September 2016 AAUW BRIDGE WINNERS

[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

First Monday: No Bridge

Second Monday: Mary Braley, Bobbie Eckerman, Pat Mikolic

Second Thursday: Judy Kumagai, Nancy Valby

Second Friday (Duplicate): Pat Mikolic, Darline Wilson, Bobbie Eckerman, Sandy Bonnet

Third Friday: Lida Kluzek, Wanda Foss

Fourth Tuesday: No Bridge

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire



Communications Communiqué

We are happy to announce that we have a new member on our team! At Fall Event, Sherry Portillo joined the Communications Committee as the Branch Shutterfly manager. We are really excited to have a designated person who can assist members in adding to the Branch's official repository for photos and videos. We also have some good news with regard to using Shutterfly: a Branch account has been created and is now available to all members to make it even easier for you to upload photos and videos. Here's how to do it:

- Open the Branch Shutterfly page: aauwsanjose.shutterfly.com
- Log in as: photos@aauwsanjose.org

Enter password: same as for the AAUW San Jose website Members Only page (contact communications@aauwsanjose.org if you don't have it)

Follow the instructions provided on the site cover page
If you already have your own Shutterfly account/login, you can still upload your photos and videos to the Branch account if you'd prefer to do it that way. As always, please email us at any time if you need assistance.

Branch General Fund Financial Activity Report 2015-2016

[Pat Diamond](#), Finance Officer 2014-2016

Revenue: \$13,085 (Dues \$6,978 + Roundup \$1,157 + Donations & Interest \$4,950)

Expenses: \$12,497 (Membership \$1,677 + Fall Event & Other Meetings \$1,030 + Programs/FFFL/ Collaborations \$2,850 + Conventions & Training \$2,499 + BONFIRE & Directory \$881 + Insurance \$1,230 + Operations \$1,580 + Computer/Internet/ Web \$750)

Building Fund Financial Activity Report 2015-2016

[Linda Holbrook](#), Building & Properties

Income: \$33,116 (Rent \$14,784 + Donations & Interest \$18,332)

Expense: \$31,074 (Taxes & Insurance \$4,097 + Janitorial & Gardening \$4,025 + Repairs & Maintenance \$5,615 + Major Interior & Exterior Improvements \$14,074 + Utilities & Other \$3,263)

USPS Postal Permit

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Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
Anne Wustrow
116 Vallecitos Way, Los Gatos, CA 95032
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
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I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (print and/or electronic) are paid above a nominal price.

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 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the November 2016 issue of this publication.
 Publication not required.

14. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Anne Wustrow
BONFIRE Editor Date: 9/24/16

15. I certify that all the information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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New Member Profiles

[Claire Campodonico](#)

[DINH COONG](#) is a Student Affiliate. Her major at San Jose State University is Biochemistry. She will graduate in 2017. Dinh's former counselor at Mission Community College referred her to our branch. Her skills include social media management.

[JILL OSOFSKY](#) earned her BA in American Studies from UC Davis. She began her career in the Berryessa School District teaching middle school. She transitioned to teaching environmental education for a nonprofit, and next as an elementary math editor at Addison-Wesley. For McGraw-Hill Children's Publishing, Jill wrote more than 45 books on math and science for elementary teachers. She was referred by her friend Marilyn Fuller. Jill is a dual member with the Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch.

[NANCY MORENO](#) earned her BA from Cal State University-Long Beach. She majored in Public Relations/Journalism with a minor in Marketing. Nancy worked at Sun Microsystems in senior program manager roles for hardware, software and support. She is presently at Oracle (which acquired Sun). Nancy has been a long-time volunteer for The Grateful Garment Project and is happy that our branch is as well. Through her church and its diocese, she is active in their human trafficking ministry. A widow with three daughters, Nancy seeks equality and justice for all women. She was referred by Mary Barry.

In Memoriam

Margery H. Epperson passed away on September 25, 2016 at the age of 91. She was preceded in death by her husband, Le Roy in 2008 and is survived by sons Terry and Randall, daughters-in-law Sherrilyn and Allison, grandsons Michael, Eric and John, granddaughter Anna and great-grandsons Brandon, Bradley and Kristopher. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, Daughters of the American Revolution, The Society of California Pioneers, San Jose State University Alumni, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and United Methodist Women.

BONFIRE Proofreader Needed

Enjoy proofreading? Interested in helping AAUW San Jose? The BONFIRE is looking for someone to help proofread articles for its monthly publication. This job entails roughly 3-5 hours/month of your time and can be done from your own home!! If you are interested in helping, please contact [Anne Wustrow](#), the BONFIRE editor.



AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

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 Nov 1	10 am - 12 pm German Conversation (Barbara Snyder) 7 pm - 8:30 pm Open House (RSVP Margaret Bard)
Wed Nov 2	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Board Meeting Social time from 6:30, meeting from 7 pm (Edna Robison)
Mon Nov 7	9:30 am - 12:30 pm Monday Bridge (RSVP Pat Mikolic) 7 pm - 8:30 pm Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Sally Bailey)
Tue Nov 8	10 am - 12 pm Tuesday Morning Book Club - <i>The Nightingale</i> by Kristin Hannah (Maggi Benson) 10 am - 11:30 am Conversacion Espanol (RSVP Nancy Toledo)
Wed Nov 9	9 am - 10 am Art Appreciation - Meet in the parking lot (RSVP Jan Bartolotta) 6 pm - 7 pm Title IX/Sports Equity (Laura Manthey) 7 pm - 9 pm Wednesday Night Book Group - <i>My Brilliant Friend</i> by Elena Ferrante (Laura Manthey)
Thu Nov 10	7:15 pm - 10 pm Bridge (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Fri Nov 11	10 am - 2 pm Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
Sat Nov 12	8:45 am - 9:45 am Weekend Walkers Willow Glen neighborhood walk 10 am - 3 pm Local Scholarship Boutique 6 pm Couples Gourmet (RSVP Margaret Bard)
Sun Nov 13	Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall)
Mon Nov 14	10 am - 1 pm Bridge (RSVP Rosemary Busch) 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Financially Fit for Life (Mary Barry) 6 pm Light Gourmet (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
Tue Nov 15	10 am - 11:45 am French Conversation (Barbara Snyder) 6 pm - 8 pm Public Policy
Wed Nov 16	7 pm - 8:30 pm Third Wednesday Program "Make a Gift for Teens" (Jean Reed)
Thu Nov 17	10 am - 12 pm Family History Webinar (Susan Brundage) 7 pm - 8:30 pm Mystery Lovers <i>Leaving Berlin</i> by Joseph Kanon (Sharon Shephard)
Fri Nov 18	10 am - 1 pm Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Singles Potluck (Isabelle Wright)
Mon Nov 21	9:30 am - 11:30 am Exploring World Literature - <i>Pippi Longstocking</i> by Astrid Lindgren (Sue Eichenbaum)
Tue Nov 22	7:15 pm - 10 pm Bridge (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
Thu Nov 24	Happy Thanksgiving
Mon Nov 28	9 am - 11 am Building and Properties Committee Meeting (Tracy Bunger) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Veggie Gourmet Potluck (Jean Wyatt 408-262--3372)

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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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1165 Minnesota Avenue
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Phone: 408-294-2430

PERIODICALS
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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



SAVE THE DATE

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General Meeting
School Bullying: Statistics, Stories, and Solutions

Cambrian Library

November 5 10 - 11:30 am

55% of Muslim public school students in California report experiencing some form of bias-based bullying. It's not just happening at the hands of students and impacts more than just the Muslim community. Join us for this special conversation on the heels of Bullying Prevention Month. CAIR-SFBA (San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations) Executive Director Zahra Billoo will share insight from their biennial bullying survey, some local stories of bullying experiences, and what can be done to address this increasing problem.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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