

San Jose Branch

***BONFIRE***



**Empowering Women Since 1881**



**Branch Program Featuring Local Scholarship Community Action Project**

**September 16, 10 am - noon**

**Willow Glen Library Community Room**

**Followed by a reception at AAUW San Jose Headquarters**

As a special thank you to everyone who helped make 2017 another banner year for Local Scholarship and all 16 of this year's scholarship recipients, please plan to attend the Special Branch Program on Saturday, September 16. This event is to thank our donors, to share the success, and to inform everyone else who would like to know more about the Local Scholarship Community Action Project. Come learn about the history of Local Scholarship, meet this and previous years' recipients, and hear how your donations make a difference in the lives of these worthy young women.

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



## Presidents' Corner September 2017

Sharon Bouska and Bobbie Baker, Co-Presidents

Welcome Back! So many Interest Groups and CAPs are returning this month after the summer break. It's a great time to get reacquainted, welcome new members and make plans for the year ahead. It's also time to look forward to the Fall Event held on October 14 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Plan to come and meet the new Board Members, Tech Trek campers and Local Scholarship recipients. As always, there will be some time to pursue the Interest Groups and Community Action Projects tables. Of course, it's also a wonderful time to get caught up with friends, enjoy a cup of coffee and check out the brunch spread! The brunch will be set out at 9:30 am so do come hungry and indulge!

### **BOARD MATTERS**

Our Board meets the first Wednesday of most months. If you would like to come and observe a meeting, just let Sharon or Bobbie know. The meeting starts at 6:30 pm with a light supper and the business portion begins at 7 pm. We usually finish up by 8:30 pm. There are a lot of misconceptions about the Board meetings so I encourage anyone to come and see for herself what

## **Year-End Reports Soon Available on Branch Website**

**Edna Robison**

Hope everyone had a good summer and is now ready for some action! Here's one more recommended reading list for you: Year-End Highlights and Annual Reports from Chairs. The reports provide valuable information on what the Branch did last year and how they match up with our strategic goals. Financial disclosures are also available. Some reports made recommendations for the next year. Lessons learned are offered by Public Policy and Membership.

Just as a teaser, did you know that our Branch gained 46 new members, mostly after the Women's March? Public Policy Committee has 63 members, up from less than 10 last year? College/University Relations now has 58 e-Student Affiliates? AAUW Fund/LAF, including Educational Opportunities Fund, Public Policy Fund, Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and other funds received \$25,720 in donations from July 2016 to June 2017? Also learn how our Community Action Projects made so much impact!

## Third Wednesday Program

Wednesday, September 20 -- 7 to 8:30 pm

### Overcoming Political Overwhelm



Are you overwhelmed by the political news? Exhausted, but don't want to give up? Don't know how to decide what to do, what's enough....and when to let go? Come to the Third Wednesday workshop, "Overcoming Political Overwhelm," sponsored by [AAUW Public Policy](#). We'll meet at Headquarters on September 20 from 7 to 8:30pm. There will be ideas - and snacks - to help you re-energize.

## College/University Relations Committee

**Geri Madden and Alyce Athanasiou, Co-Chairs**

Did you know that AAUW has over 800 college and university members? We are proud that all four of our local campuses are members: Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, San Jose City College and Evergreen Valley College. AAUW membership for campuses helps their students achieve success through networking to land that dream job, programs that build their leadership skills and confidence, and advocacy efforts for fair pay and an equitable workplace to support themselves and their families throughout their lives.

AAUW San Jose provides added value to that partnership by facilitating Start Smart Salary Negotiation workshops, bringing information to students about AAUW grants, fellowships and scholarships, and meeting specific needs such as offering Equal Pay Day programs. We help build the local relationships that bring AAUW's mission to college students right here in San Jose.

We are excited about the 2017/2018 academic year and, with additional help from our Branch members, we can do so much more. Please come and explore the possibilities with us at the upcoming College/University Relations Committee meeting on Saturday, September 23, from 10 am to 12:30 pm at Headquarters. RSVP to [Geri Madden](#), (h) 408-923-6060 or (c) 619 203 1413; or [Alyce Athanasiou](#), 408-264-4427.

**PUBLIC POLICY**

**Women In Action – AAUW San Jose  
Postcard Station**

Next time you are at Headquarters, please take time to stop at the “Postcard Station” in the front hall. You’ll find blank postcards and instructions for sending a message to one or more of your elected representatives. Drop the postcard in the DropBox and we’ll stamp and mail it for you. Messages to representatives are tallied and used to set policy, to validate positions, to report to the media and to advocate with other elected officials. Make a habit of writing at least one postcard each time you are at Headquarters. We encourage you to take the habit home and continue to act regularly. Don’t like to write postcards? Electronic messages and social media can also be used to act. If you are unsure how to use electronic media, contact the [Public Policy Committee](#) and a member will coach you into action.



**Join the Financially Fit  
For Life Committee**

**Monday, September 11 - 1:30 pm**

Help us to plan this coming year’s programs to build lifelong financial skills for ourselves and for all girls and women. As we all know, this often-neglected area of education can have a huge positive or negative impact on the life prospects for girls and women. Let’s work together on programs that change lives for the better. Come learn with us, Monday, September 11 at 1:30 pm. Questions? Contact [Leslie Larson](#).

**Attention Interest Group and  
CAP chairs**

**Tuesday, September 12 – 3 to 5 pm**

On Tuesday September 12, from 3 to 5 pm at headquarters, the wine and cheese annual kick-off meeting for the chairs of all CAPs and Interest Groups will be held.

Responsibilities will be discussed, plans for Fall Event finalized and an AED (defibrillator) demonstration presented. Wine will be provided. Attendees are requested to bring cheese and crackers or fruit and other nibbles. RSVP to Nanci Eksterowicz, Interest Group Coordinator.



**Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
Looking For Volunteers**

**[Karelle Cornwell](#), Chair**

Interested in helping those less fortunate? Neighbors Helping Neighbors offers a great opportunity to get involved. We provide lunches for homeless women, dinners for families in need, cleaning kits for families transitioning to permanent housing, school supplies for children, survival backpacks and hygiene kits for the homeless, support for victims of domestic violence and blankets for children. Check the AAUW San Jose calendar for meeting times and dates.



*"Little girls with dreams become women with vision" - Unknown*

*"Tech Trek has made me want to go into a field involving chemistry and/or biology because now I am aware of the vast amount of options available to me. Without the experience that this week has provided for me, I don't think I would be so sure about my future plans."*

*"Thank you for providing me with the opportunity of a lifetime by so graciously supporting the Tech Trek program and sending me and so many others to help them grow in their knowledge of STEM. During my time at this eye-opening camp, I have made experiences that will never fade away. It means a lot to me that you have been able to make my dreams come true and continue to do that for San Jose girls who are determined to follow their education."*

*"One of the many experiences I enjoyed was Mad City Money. The main point of Mad City Money was to let us learn to manage money while buying household supplies and other necessities like food, clothing, etc. We learned how to write checks and manage our bank accounts by calculating deposits and withdrawals."*

### **Tech Trek Camp Curie** **Michelle Lalljie, Tech Trek Chair**

Tech Trek just completed its 20<sup>th</sup> year with nine San Jose Tech Trek scholarship recipients experiencing immersion in STEM at Stanford (<http://www.aauw-techtrek.org/stanford/>). The girls came from five schools in Eastside San Jose. The program provided the girls with an amazing opportunity to enjoy a week in a university setting to broaden their knowledge of STEM fields including Computer Science, Engineering, Forensics and Marine Biology.

This year, our Financially Fit for Life committee researched and implemented a financial program for camp called Mad City Money. It was a successful hands-on class, sponsored by Meriwest Credit Union of Santa Clara County, which taught the girls real-life scenarios of managing money. We had six volunteers from our Branch help implement this program at camp including Mary Barry, Leslie Larson, Rita Arbour, Nanci Eksterowicz, Karelle Cornwell and Katherine Linneman. The program was a definite favorite for many girls as they learned real-life, practical skills.

Members of our Branch donate generously to our STEM programs at the time of the annual membership renewal. During Fall Event, our campers will speak to the members about their experiences.

I couldn't have gotten through this first year of Tech Trek without the support of a committee of amazing, dedicated women, including Elaine Benoit, Elizabeth Guimarin, Nancy Hooton, Cheryl Markman, Margaret Bard, Martha Glanzman, Karelle Cornwell, Sharon Burkett, Sharon Niedermaier, Payje Redmond and last, but certainly not least, Tech Trek ex-leader extraordinaire, Jane Guinther. My thanks to the committee and all of the other members who, in one way or another, created big dreams for these girls.

**New Member Profiles**

**Claire Campodonico**

**JULIE KANE** recently graduated from San Jose City College. She is off to Cal State East Bay this fall to study Business Administration and Accounting. She learned of our Branch through an AAUW San Jose scholarship flyer. Julie is a mother of two children.

**RHEA MUNOZ** heard of AAUW through an internet search. She earned a BA in Social Work at SJSU and is working toward her MA in Public Administration at San Francisco State. Rhea is a social worker. She is teaching social learning projects to teens this summer.

**JOANIE O'REILLY** earned her BS in Child Development from Cal State Hayward. Now that she has retired from being the owner of several bookstores and moved here from Lompoc, where she was a member, she quickly found our Branch.

**MARY JANE VITKOVICH** received her BS in Science in Commerce from Santa Clara University. She has retired from a career in HR at Hewlett-Packard and a second career at Sacred Heart Community Services. She has volunteered for our Branch's Gifts for Teens.

**CLARE McINTYRE** earned her BS in Nutrition from the University of Washington. Moving back to California, she and her husband managed several drugstores. After having five children in eight years, her career varied from teaching piano to restaurant manager at Nordstrom, to working as a licensed insurance representative for 23 years.

**Gifts for Teens Major FUNraiser Almost Here**



**Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens**

It's party time and the Silicon Valley Broomstick Ball is right around the corner. Mark your calendar for October 14 from 7 pm to midnight for a spooktacular evening of drinks, dinner, dancing, a high-end silent auction and loads of fun. The event is being held at the Hotel Valencia in Santana Row. Tickets are \$150.00. Get a group together and share a table and an unforgettable evening. Gifts for Teens is excited and honored to be one of the two beneficiaries for the year sponsored by Silicon Valley Cares. A grant from the event proceeds will help fund our annual holiday gift bag distribution serving needy Bay Area teens.



For more information, go to [www.siliconvalleycares.org](http://www.siliconvalleycares.org), Broomstick Ball, or contact Elaine Benoit (408) 268-9654. Come celebrate Fall, have a good time and support a worthy cause!



**July 2017 Bridge Winners**

**Bobbie Eckerman**

**First Monday:** Pat Mikolic, Kennette Shannon

**Second Monday:** Bobbie Eckerman, Rosemary Busch, Judy Kumagai

**Second Thursday:** Anna Kurze, Bobbie Eckerman

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

**Third Friday:** Leela Viswanathan, Lida Kluzek

**Fourth Tuesday:** Cancelled

# AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

## CALENDAR September 2017

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 [Bernice Redfern](#). 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](#).

Fri Sep 1	5:30 pm - 8:30pm	<b>Weekend Walkers - Campbell First Friday</b> - Meet at Pruneyard near Hwy 17 overpass ( <a href="#">Jean Reed</a> )
Mon Sep 4	9:30 am - 12:30pm	<b>Bridge</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Pat Mikolic</a> )
Tue Sep 5	10 am - 12pm	<b>German Conversation</b> ( <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	6 pm - 8pm	<b>Public Policy</b> ( <a href="#">Peg Carlson-Bowen</a> )
Thu Sep 7	1 pm - 3pm	<b>Knitting Know How</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Margaret McCartney</a> )
Fri Sep 8	10 am - 2pm	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )
Sat Sep 9	6:30 pm - 9:30pm	<b>Couples Gourmet</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Margaret Bard</a> )
Sun Sep 10		<b>Film Fans</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Linda Snashall</a> )
Mon Sep 11	10 am - 1pm	<b>Bridge</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Rosemary Busch</a> )
	1:30 pm - 2:30pm	<b>Financially Fit for Life</b> ( <a href="#">Leslie Larson</a> )
	6 pm - 9pm	<b>Light Gourmet</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Cheryl Markman</a> )
	7 pm - 8:30pm	<b>Neighbors Helping Neighbors</b> ( <a href="#">Karelle Cornwell</a> )
Tue Sep 12	10 am - 11:30am	<b>Conversacion Espanol</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Nancy Toledo</a> )
	10 am - 11:30am	<b>A.M. Book Discussion</b> " <i>The Boys in the Boat</i> " by Daniel James Brown ( <a href="#">Terry McBride</a> )
	3 pm - 5pm	<b>New Year Kick-Off</b> for Interest Group and CAP Chairs - ( <a href="#">Nancy Eskterowicz</a> )
Wed Sep 13	10 am - 1pm	<b>Art Appreciation</b> - Potluck planning session ( <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )
	6 pm - 7pm	<b>Title IX Sports Equity</b> (Laura Manthey)
Fri Sep 15	10 am - 1pm	<b>Bridge</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )
Sat Sep 16	10 am - 12pm	<b>Local Scholarship</b> (Marilyn Jackson)
Mon Sep 18	6 pm - 9pm	<b>International Gourmet</b> Potluck dinner (RSVP <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )
Tue Sep 19	10 am - 11:45am	<b>French Conversation</b> ( <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )
	1 pm - 3pm	<b>Knitting Know How</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Margaret McCartney</a> )
	6 pm - 8pm	<b>Public Policy</b> ( <a href="#">Peg Carlson-Bowen</a> )
Wed Sep 20	7 pm - 8:30pm	<b>Third Wednesday "Overcome Overwhelm"</b> ( <a href="#">Peg Carlson-Bowen</a> )
Thu Sep 21	10 am - 12pm	<b>Family History</b> ( <a href="#">Susan Brundage</a> )
	7 pm - 8:30pm	<b>Mystery Lovers "Impaired Judgement"</b> by David Compton ( <a href="#">Sharon Shephard</a> )
Sat Sep 23	10 am - 12:30pm	<b>College/Universities Relations Committee</b> ( <a href="#">Geri Madden</a> )
Mon Sep 25	9:30 am - 11am	<b>Building and Properties Committee</b> ( <a href="#">Linda Goldberg</a> )
	6:30 pm - 7:30pm	<b>Gourmet Vegetarian</b> ( <a href="#">Jean Wyatt</a> )
Tue Sep 26	11:30 am - 2pm	<b>Lunch Bunch</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Diana Taylor</a> )
	7 pm - 8:30pm	<b>Great Decisions Evening Group</b> ( <a href="#">Karelle Cornwell</a> )
Thu Sep 28	7 pm - 9pm	<b>Game Night</b> (RSVP by Monday <a href="#">Connie Wolff</a> )

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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**  
**POSTAGE PAID**

**AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909***



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**AAUW-San Jose Fall Event**

Saturday, October 14 – 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

First Congregational Church of San Jose, 1980 E. Hamilton, SJ

Come join your friends and see what the Board has planned for the upcoming year. Details will follow in the October BONFIRE.



*Empowering Women Since 1881*

See the San Jose Branch Website at [www.aauwsanjose.org](http://www.aauwsanjose.org) for more information.