

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE**Empowering Women Since 1881****Fall Event****Saturday, October 14****9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

First Congregational Church of San Jose - Fellowship Hall
1980 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose (corner of Leigh and Hamilton)

Please join us for one of the most anticipated events of the year! Come catch up with friends and see what the Board has planned for the upcoming year. Easy parking on site! Registration and tables open at 9:30 am for Interest Group and Community Action Project viewing and sign-ups. A continental breakfast buffet will be available starting at 9:30 am, with breakfast items made by members, as well as coffee, tea and water. Program begins at 10 am: meet your new Board, Local Scholarship recipients, Tech Trek participants, hear a Public Policy update from Peg Carlson-Bowen, and we'll honor 50 year members. 2017-2018 Handbook/directories will be available to pick up.

Membership is taking sign-ups for food donations - we are looking for breakfast/brunch type finger foods. Please email membership@aauwsanjose.org if you can provide a breakfast treat.

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



PRESIDENTS' CORNER OCTOBER 2017

Sharon Bouska and Bobbie Baker, Co-Presidents

Your new Board is in full swing. Be sure and check the BONFIRE and/or our Branch website for upcoming events, meetings and happenings. Of course, the big event for your presidents this month is the Fall Event. See the Membership article for a great summary of what is in store. This event really kicks off the 2017-2018 year for your Branch. We promise deviled eggs, directory/handbooks, and meeting up with new and old friends!

BOARD MATTERS for September 2017

The 2017-18 Board met for the first time on September 6. After enjoying a luau-themed supper, the Board got down to business. It approved the Schedule for Programs, Meetings and Events compiled by the Program Committee, listened intently to the proposed budget for the coming year, and heard updates about Fall Event and Public Policy. Prizes were given to best Hawaiian attire, and Edna Robison, Jan Bartolotta and Linda Goldberg walked away with prize pineapples!

For the first Board meeting of the 2017-18 year, the Board reviewed answers to a question that was posed to them during Board bonding, "How would you like the community to describe AAUW San Jose?" Their answers were: welcoming, inclusive, expertise in women's issues, multi-cultural, engaged in community, multi-generational, and FUN." Many of these we do automatically. The Board meets the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30pm (light supper) to 8:30pm. Anyone may attend.

AAUW California Fund Luncheon

[Sharon Bouska](#)

Save Saturday, October 28 from noon to 3 pm on your calendar. Each year AAUW-CA is especially delighted to formally present its Fellowship and Grant recipients at the Fall Fund Luncheon. Thanks to the longstanding, generous contributions of AAUW California members, a broader community of women continues gaining access to educational and economic opportunities, breaking through barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

This year the luncheon will be held at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave., South San Francisco. The cost is \$45, and lunch choices are Chicken Chasseur (chicken, white wine, fresh herbs, mushrooms) or Vegetarian Pasta. To register, send your check payable to AAUW California, 1331 Garden Highway #100, Sacramento CA 95833. If you would like to carpool, or need more information, please contact [Sharon Bouska](#).

See You at the Local Scholarship Holiday Boutique on November 11

Cheryl Markman

AAUW San Jose has been providing scholarships for women for 37 years through the Local Scholarship Community Action Project. Originally, scholarships in the amount of \$100 were awarded to young women graduating from high school and going on to a four-year institution. Later, the focus was changed to women who have completed two full years at an accredited college or university and are enrolled in a four-year institution, and the grant amounts have increased to as much as \$4,000 and \$5,000 for two special awards. In 2017, over \$50,000 was awarded to 16 recipients.

In addition to monetary donations from AAUW San Jose members, Local Scholarship is funded through grant writing and an annual Holiday Boutique, now looking forward to its 16th year. The Boutique will be held this year on Saturday, November 11. Please consider donating home-baked goods, handcrafted jewelry, needlework and craft items, hand-knitted scarves, small gifts, holiday decorations and other items of décor. For the past several years Interest Groups have generously donated thematic baskets related to their respective areas of interest, and we hope the tradition will continue. Thanks to this generosity and to your purchases at the Boutique, we look forward to another successful fundraising event! For more information, please contact [Virginia Beck](#).

Make Your Voice Heard!

[Peg Carlson Bowen](#)

In August, AAUW San Jose Public Policy collaborated with the Morgan Hill Branch to deliver our ‘Make Your Voice Heard’ hands-on workshop to a packed room (70 attendees!). The event was held at the Morgan Hill Library in concert with that city's week of celebrating women getting the right to vote. In addition to learning tips to make a message stand out, we shared fun smartphone apps and Facebook tips that are easy to learn in minutes (yes, even if you're not a ‘techie!’) Word of mouth is getting around, and we've been asked to deliver this workshop at San Jose State University, to the AAUW Chico-Paradise Branch, (and their IBC) to Notre Dame High School, and even to submit it to AAUW CA as a possible workshop at the AAUW State Convention! If you missed our March workshop and would like us to schedule another one, contact publicpolicy@aauwsanjose.org! Or stop by our table at Fall Event and send an AAUW San Jose-branded postcard to your legislator!



Third Wednesday Program
MIY: Make a “Gift For Teens” – Part 1

This year we are planning a special day-time Third Wednesday Program to get started on making “Gifts for Teens”. We will make fringed fleece scarves. No sewing skills are required. Come to Headquarters on October 18 at 10 am. Bring sewing scissors if you have them. We should have a nice stack of gift-wrapped scarves by noon. There will be another chance to make scarves in the evening on November 15th. Donations of fleece are most welcome. 2-yards make about 9 scarves but we can work with full-width remnants too! Contact [Jean Reed](#) with questions.

October Neighbors Helping Neighbors Meeting Karelle Cornwell, Chair



Members of Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) will gather before their regular meeting to make blankets for the Linus Project. The Linus Project provides blankets for children of all ages who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. No sewing skills are needed to make the blankets. If you're interested in becoming a member of NHN, come join us at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 2 at Headquarters. This is a good opportunity to meet some of our members and learn more about what NHN is doing to help our community.



"Outlook" Is Going Digital!

Starting with the summer 2017 issue, AAUW Outlook is digital. You'll still get the same insight about the issues that affect women and girls the most, but with more content. Make sure AAUW National has your preferred email address on file and keep a look out for this issue in your email box!

Would You Like To Plan a Social Engagement?

[Sharon Bouska](#)



In addition to the Interest Groups and Community Action Projects, did you join AAUW San Jose to have extra fun? Do you like to attend and plan get-togethers such as Chocolate and Chit-Chat, Discussions and Dessert, Words and Wine? If so, please email [Sharon Bouska](#) and let her know you are interested in planning social opportunities for you, partners, spouses and guests. We will plan a time to get together.

Help Wanted: Poetry Reader

[Bobbie Baker](#)

Attention all English majors and other literary types! We will be celebrating Emily Dickinson at a Holiday Tea planned for December 10 at Headquarters. If you can help by reading poems to an audience, please reply to [Bobbie Baker](#) (408 978 2812).

AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire



Gifts for Teens Is Looking for Party Goers

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens



Don't miss out on the fun - get your tickets now for the Silicon Valley Broomstick Ball on October 14. Enjoy dinner, dancing, drinks and a high-end silent auction, all at the Hotel Valencia in Santana Row. Tickets are \$150.00. Get a group together and share a table for a night of fun and magic. For more info and to purchase tickets, go to www.siliconvalleycares.org and click on Broomstick Ball, or contact Elaine Benoit at 408 268-9654.



Rooms for Rent

The upstairs space at Headquarters will be available for rent. The space is 1,400 square feet and the rent will be \$1,700 per month. The new tenant may move in near the end of November. If you know of any interested parties, please have them contact president@aauwsanjose.org.

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* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

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Janet Wustrow
BONFIRE Editor
Date: **9/11/2017**

I certify that all 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

PHUONG THAO MACLEOD earned her BS in Health Sciences with a Community Health Option from CSU East Bay. She is a Development/Donor Database Associate for Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence. Member Anne Andrews referred her.

LETICIA COWAN earned her BA in Business Administration from Southern Oregon University. She is a Business Manager for her husband's company, Sol Ideas Technology Development. She was referred by Peg Carlson-Bowen.

SARI FITZWATER learned of our Branch on Facebook. Now retired, her career was in IT in Management, Mergers and Acquisitions. She earned her MA in Counseling Psychology from Santa Clara University and her BA in Applied Science (social work).

SHIRLEY FULLER was previously a member at the national level. She earned a BA in Psychology with a minor in Women's Studies from SJSU as well as a MA in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling. Her PhD in Clinical Psychology was earned at Pacific Graduate School in Palo Alto. She is active in private practice as a Psychologist.

MONICA HOJDA learned of our Branch at Morgan Hill's Branch Wildflower Event. She attended SJSU and earned her BS in Physical Education. Now retired, she was employed by both San Jose Unified School District's and SJSU's athletic departments.

JENAE SARINANA heard of our Branch at the Women's March. She is studying at Golden Gate University and will soon receive her BA. She is also a stay at home mom.



In Memoriam

Mary McCreath
1922 - 2017

Mary McCreath, one of AAUW San Jose's most distinguished members, passed away on June 22, 2017. Mary was a member of our branch for over 50 years.

Mary served on the San Jose Unified School Board of Education from 1966 to 1979, including as President in 1968-69 and 1972-73. She chose not to run for her fourth term in 1979 and instead worked as a lobbyist for the school district until her retirement in 1989. Mary contributed her expertise in education to the development of AAUW policy and was honored for these contributions on both the branch and state levels. Mary was also an active member of the Puppeteers which was appropriate in that she met her husband-to-be, Harrison, in a Drama Department production at San Jose State University. He later was chair of the Humanities Department.

Those of us who joined the branch in the 1960's had the great pleasure and benefit of working with a core group of Branch leaders, born in the 1920's, who were proactive, civic-minded and congenial. Mary was an important part of that group.

In Memoriam



Mary Kieran Fitzgerald

Mary Fitzgerald died peacefully at her home in "The Villages" in San Jose on September 13, 2017 at the age of 79. She faced her lung cancer diagnosis just as she lived - on her terms, with clear-eyed perspective, courage, and integrity.

She was a long-standing and active member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community where she contributed in a variety of roles: lector, bulletin editor, and coordinator of the emergency assistance program. She also served on the diocesan committee for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Mary was active with the San Jose chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and faithfully served on its scholarship committees. In addition to being a loving wife and mother, Mary was a loyal friend, a kind neighbor, and a lifelong learner who was always reading. She savored time at the ocean; enjoyed her tennis teams, bridge groups, and book clubs; and relished the victories of her beloved sports teams: San Jose Sharks, New York Giants, and New York Yankees.

Her children write: "Mary was a gift to each of us in so many ways. In the midst of our loss, it is a privilege to honor and celebrate her life." A memorial service was held in September. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations for the AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship Fund.

August Bridge Winners [Bobbie Eckerman](#)



First Monday: Joan Benedetti, Pat Mikolic

Second Monday: Alma Powell, Judy Kumagai

Second Thursday: Cancelled

Second Friday (Duplicate): Nancy Valby, Leela Viswanathan

Third Friday: Kennette Shannon, Judy Kumagai, Sandy Bonnet

Fourth Tuesday: Cancelled

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 [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](#).

- Mon Oct 2 9:30 am - 12:30 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Pat Mikolic](#))
6:30 pm - 8 pm **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** - Project Linus blankets from 6:30, business meeting from 7:15 ([Karelle Cornwell](#))
- Tue Oct 3 10 am - 12 pm **German Conversation** ([Barbara Snyder](#))
6 pm - 8 pm **Public Policy** ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Thu Oct 5 1 pm - 3 pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
- Mon Oct 9 10 am - 1 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Rosemary Busch](#))
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm **Financially Fit for Life** ([Leslie Larson](#))
6 pm - 9 pm **Light Gourmet** (RSVP [Cheryl Markman](#))
- Tue Oct 10 10 am - 11:30 am **Tuesday Book Discussion** - ([Terry McBride](#))
10 am - 11:30 am **Conversacion Espanol** - (RSVP [Nancy Toledo](#))
- Wed Oct 11 10 am - 2 pm **Art Appreciation** ([Jan Bartolotta](#))
6 pm - 7 pm **Title IX Sports Equity** ([Laura Manthey](#))
7 pm - 8 pm **PM Book Discussion** - *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult ([Laura Manthey](#))
- Thu Oct 12 7:15 - 10 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Fri Oct 13 10 am - 2 pm **Duplicate Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Sat Oct 14 9:30 am - 12:30 pm **Fall Event** First Congregational Church at Hamilton & Leigh ([Jan Bartolotta](#))
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm **Couples Gourmet** (RSVP [Margaret Bard](#))
7 pm - 12 am **Broomstick Ball** - Gifts for Teens-see article (RSVP [Elaine Benoit](#))
- Mon Oct 16 9:30 am - 11 am **Exploring World Literature *A Passage to India*** by E.M. Forster ([Diana Taylor](#))
6:30 pm - 9 pm **International Gourmet** Cuban Cuisine ([Jan Bartolotta](#))
- Tue Oct 17 10 am - 11:45 am **French Conversation** ([Barbara Snyder](#))
1 pm - 3 pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
6 pm - 8 pm **Public Policy** (RSVP [Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Wed Oct 18 10 am - noon **Make A Gift For Teens** see article ([Jean Reed](#))
- Thu Oct 19 10 am - 12 pm **Family History** ([Susan Brundage](#))
7 pm - 8:30 pm **Mystery Lovers *The Guards*** by Ken Bruen ([Sharon Shephard](#))
- Fri Oct 20 10 am - 1 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Mon Oct 23 9:30 am - 11 am **Building and Properties Committee** ([Linda Goldberg](#))
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm **Gourmet Vegetarian** ([Jean Wyatt](#))
- Tue Oct 24 11:30 am - 2 pm **Lunch Bunch** (RSVP [Diana Taylor](#))
7 pm - 8:30 pm **Great Decisions** ([Karelle Cornwell](#))
7:15 - 10 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Thu Oct 26 7 pm - 9 pm **Game Night** (RSVP by Monday [Connie Wolff](#))
- Fri Oct 27 12:30 pm - 3 pm **Local Scholarship** ([Virginia Beck](#))

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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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PERIODICALS
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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



Sign-ups are now starting for the Gifts for Teens bag assembly the first two weeks in December. Shifts are three hours, morning or afternoon, and slots will fill up fast. Many hands are needed to prepare and fill 1,200 holiday gift bags.

For individual volunteers, contact Kathy@gifts4teens.org.

For groups, contact cheryl@gifts4teens.org.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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