

San Jose Branch

**BONFIRE**



Empowering Women Since 1881



“Hope” is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words -  
And never stops - at all -  
“That it will never come again is what makes life so sweet.”

—Emily Dickinson

You are invited to a  
*Holiday Tea Party*

in honor of Emily Dickinson

Sunday, December 10, from 2 to 4 pm at Headquarters.



We will be celebrating Emily’s birthday with a reading of her poems, a short biographical film and, of course, a lovely cup of tea with cake. If you have a special teacup, please bring it along to enjoy your tea. It is also rumored that a tea leaves reader may make an appearance to divine the fortunes of all those interested! Do plan to come and enjoy this unique holiday experience.



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



## Presidents' Corner December 2017

Sharon Bouska and Bobbie Baker, Co-Presidents

### [Bobbie Baker](#), Co-President

December is here, and although some interest groups take the month off, there are a few AAUW holiday activities taking place. On Sunday, December 10, there will be a Holiday Tea Party honoring Emily Dickinson, and on Saturday, December 16, there will be the annual Holiday Lights Walk. Check out this month's BONFIRE for more information.

Do remember to mark your new 2018 calendars for the upcoming Women's March on January 20, 2018! We plan to have a table at the March again so we can advance the AAUW mission to promote equity for women and girls.

Soon the Nominating Committee will begin their work of soliciting members for the elected positions of the Branch. Please consider stepping up into a position. Contact Edna Robison if you are interested or know someone who might be!

Sharon and I want to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season and a Joyful New Year. We both look forward to a productive and successful year for our Branch in 2018.

## BOARD MATTERS

### [Sharon Bouska](#), Co-President

The November Board of Directors honored Brenda Ladewig as a 50-Year Honorary Life Member. She has been involved in the Branch in so many ways - she was the 2005-2006 President, has served on the Finance Committee, and is currently representing Local Scholarship on the Board. Thank you, for your years of service, Brenda!

The Board passed a motion to approve members of the Nominating Committee, which consists of Alyce Athanasiou, Mary Francis, Elaine McMahon, Nancy Moreno, Barbara Purdy, and Sonia Wright. Immediate Past President Edna Robison will chair the committee. This committee is responsible for selecting a slate of officers for 2018-2019. If you have any questions about the Board positions, contact [Edna, Bobbie or me](#).

The second motion passed was the allocation of Ruby Trombetta funds for College/University Partners. Part of the funds will allow Alyce Athanasiou and Geri Madden to present Start Smart Workshops at our local college/university partners. If you are interested in helping with this, contact [Alyce](#) or Geri.

The Board of Directors meets the first Wednesday of every month, except January, July and August (for your information, the "Board Matters" bulletin board in the hallway at Headquarters has the latest minutes). Any member is invited to attend meetings. A light supper is served at 6:30 pm and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Adjournment is scheduled for 8:30 pm. We would love to have you attend!



## Local Scholarship Holiday Boutique Wrap-Up

Cheryl Markman

Happy Holidays and Thank You from the Local Scholarship Committee. Between sales and donations, we raised \$7,000 at the 2017 Holiday Boutique on November 11! This total could go even higher as Branch members might still purchase items not sold on the day of the Boutique. Again, we thank you all for your generous contributions and purchases!

## Public Policy Highlights

[Peg Carlson-Bowen](#)

**Collaboration:** We shared Title IX compliance research done by member Phuong Thao MacLeod, and as a result were invited to join the Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy's new consortium looking to fully implement Title IX training and compliance across all local schools. Our SmartPhone Advocacy tools and Postcard Party format are in use by the Willow Glen "Recharge2Act" group, formed from Women's March participants, two of whom have now joined AAUW San Jose. AAUW San Jose has been invited to host workshops in the week-long activities scheduled after the 2018 Women's March to increase women's civic engagement. We received word from AAUW-CA that they would like us to present our workshop "Overcoming Political Overwhelm" at the AAUW California convention in April.

**Advocacy:** Eight of the bills AAUW-CA endorsed were signed by Governor Brown, including one preventing employers from asking applicants for previous salary information. This will help prevent anyone's wage gap from being perpetuated. Governor Brown vetoed the bill to enact Title IX requirements into state law, stating that ongoing vagaries in federal policy in this area made this legislation premature.

## Title IX/Sports Equity in Action

Jean Reed

For the sixth year, our Title IX/Sports Equity Interest Group distributed the Directory of Title IX Coordinators for Santa Clara County. Members contacted each of the 30-plus school districts in the county to collect current information for the 2017-2018 school year. Federal law requires that every district designate an individual to monitor school policies and complaints to ensure that all students can attend school free of sex discrimination. At the end of October, [Palo Alto announced that they have hired a full time Title IX Coordinator](#). The Directory was quickly revised and re-sent it to all Title IX Coordinators. The Directory is intended as a resource for administrators, students, parents and the community. The Directory is posted on the AAUW San Jose website.

## Title IX – 37 words that have advanced equity for women and girls:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

## Donations for Northern California Wildfire Victims

[Karelle Cornwell and Sally Bailey](#)

Co-Chairs, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

As many of us watched the devastation brought by the wildfires in northern California, we wondered how we could best help those whose lives were affected. Sharon Bouska, our Co-President, contacted the President of the Healdsburg Branch of AAUW, who recommended two organizations that are accepting donations to help the victims of the fires. The first is the Redwood Credit Union ([www.redwoodcu.org/northbayfirerelief](http://www.redwoodcu.org/northbayfirerelief)), which has set up a special fund. One hundred percent of the donations to this fund go to support those impacted by the fires. The second is the Redwood Empire Food Bank ([www.refb.org](http://www.refb.org)), which is a nonprofit in Sonoma County that is making a special effort to feed those impacted by the fires.

## 2017-2018 Budget, Expenses and Income

Virginia Beck, Finance Officer

Late summer each year, the Finance Officer prepares a Branch budget based on history and input from members of the Board of Directors. The draft budget is reviewed by the Finance Committee and then the Board of Directors at their September Board meeting. After any revisions, it is reviewed again by the Finance Committee and then recommended for passage to the Board of Directors. After the final review at the October Board meeting, it is passed and in effect until June 30, 2018, unless revisions are made which require new reviews and votes. The Branch fiscal year is July 1 - June 30. Please contact Virginia Beck with questions. The detailed budget can be reviewed on the Branch website Members Only page.

In summary, the 2017-2018 Branch budget is:

**Projected Income:** dues and donations to Branch operations: \$8,604.00

### Projected Expenses:

- Membership and Fall Event: \$1,975.00
- Program (Annual meeting in April, Public Policy, College/University, and general programs): \$2,550.00
- Financially Fit for Life and Community Action Projects: \$180.00 (CAPs receive the majority of their income through donations to ISPF)
- Dues to Interbranch Council: \$30.00
- Interest Group Coordination: \$100.00
- State and National Conventions: \$1,500.00
- BONFIRE: \$580.00
- Directory: \$450.00
- Branch Banner: \$300.00
- Operating and Office Expenses, Insurance and Web/Internet: \$2,443.31
- President Expenses: \$600.00

At the November 2 Board meeting, the Board approved a request from the College/University Committee for \$720.00 to support their Start Smart workshop efforts and the Evergreen Community College student organization. The money will be taken from the Ruby Trombetta donation and added to the Branch budget.

## Nominating Committee Formed

Edna Robison, Past-President and Chair

On November 2, the Board approved the following list of Nominating Committee members: Alyce Athanasiou, Mary Francis, Elaine McMahon, Nancy Moreno, Barbara Purdy, and Sonia Wright. The committee will be led by Edna Robison, Immediate Past President.

The Nominating Committee meets on the call of the Chair and is convened by the Parliamentarian in January. It is responsible for preparing a list of nominees for all elected offices and new members of the Building and Properties Committee. Nominees will be presented to the Board in March and then to the members at the April Luncheon Meeting. Thank you, Nominating Committee members, for accepting this responsibility!

## Willow Glen Holiday Lights Volkswalk



December 16

6:30 pm to 8 pm

Jean Reed, Weekend Walkers



The lights of Willow Glen are a holiday treat that you should not miss. On Saturday, December 16, there will be a sanctioned "Volkswalks" sponsored by the South Bay Striders, based at AAUW Headquarters. Volkswalks originated in Europe; a fun, noncompetitive walk that you do with a club, your family, or all by yourself. Today there are thousands of clubs around the world. You can start either a 5k or 10k course any time after 4 pm, but need to complete it by 9 pm. There is an optional \$5 fee if you want "Volkswalk" credit." A group of Weekend Walkers will leave Headquarters about 6:30 pm and expect to be back by 8 pm. Contact [Jean Reed](#) if you plan to walk with the AAUW group so that we don't leave without you.

FOR RENT

## Rooms to Rent.

The upstairs space at Headquarters is available for rent. The space is 1,400 square feet and the rent is \$1.50 per square foot. If you know of any interested parties, please have them contact [Mary Francis](#).

## End of the Year Push for Gifts for Teens



Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens is finishing up another busy year of buying, grant writing and soliciting donations for our teen holiday gift bags. Thank you in advance to all the generous AAUW members who have already donated or have signed up for the gift bag assembly. This assembly time is so popular, all of our slots have already been filled. But if you are looking for a charitable cause for donation before the end of the year, Gifts for Teens is still gratefully accepting cash donations, for last minute purchases, store or fast food gift card, or small hand held games. These items are always a special treat for the low income or homeless teens. To donate, contact [Elaine@gifts4teens.org](mailto:Elaine@gifts4teens.org). Thank you!

## French Conversation Group Celebrates 50 years



Barbara Snyder



The AAUW San Jose Branch French Conversation Group has been meeting monthly for 50 years. To celebrate, we are having a gala luncheon on **Tuesday, December 19, at 11 am**. Everyone is invited to attend this special celebration, even if the only French you know is "*bonjour!*"

The group started on January 16, 1968 to create a place where everyone was welcome to come and to try speaking French, no matter if you were halting (and looked up every word) or *au courant*. Every meeting has included speaking in French while participating in various activities, including reading articles or stories together, cooking new recipes, singing, playing Scrabble and bridge, travelogues, etc. One program presenter showed us how to sew in a zipper by hand, all in French; by the end of the meeting each person had sewn in a sample zipper.

To make a reservation for the French gala, contact [Barbara Snyder](#). There is no cost, but you will be asked to bring something for the lunch. When you make your reservation, Barbara will tell you what remains on the list of things to be brought and the address of the event. Space is limited, so please reserve before December 2.

## Congratulations to 2017 AAUW Fund Fellows

Louise Persson



Inspired! Uplifted! Feel good ending! Yes, all of those were my reactions after attending the AAUW Fund Fall Luncheon on October 29 in Danville. In celebration of 135 years of the Educational Foundation, now known as Educational Opportunities, AAUW California proudly announced that there are 26 AAUW Fund Fellowship and Grant recipients studying in California colleges and universities or doing projects in our communities. They represent a broad and diverse range of studies and interests, and are an excellent example of the wonderful use of branch and member donations.

In the photo (from left to right) are American Fellowship winners Alani Hicks-Barton, UC Berkeley - Political Science/Romance Languages/Gender Studies/Disability Studies; Kimberly Long, UC Berkeley - Neuroscience; and Career Development Grant winners Cherone Zabezudo, UCSF - Teaching; Kara Leong, UC Davis - Viticulture and Enology; Elaini Present, UC Berkeley - Building Science and Sustainability; and International Fellowship winner Marcela Cervini, UC Berkeley - Financial Engineering. Each winner shared an overview of her work and research and expressed deepest gratitude for the AAUW Fund and the opportunities it brought them.

The determination to learn and to succeed that these women shared was amazing. Their willingness to undertake difficult and challenging tasks and the knowledge they displayed were truly a light for us all. Each year the Fund Luncheon is an opportunity to see our AAUW Funds in action, and to feel pride in the amazing accomplishments of the young women we support.

Gloria Blackwell and Toni Johnson joined us from AAUW National. Their speeches were both informative and inspirational and they encouraged us to visit the AAUW offices whenever we visit Washington, DC.

## New Member Profiles

Claire Campodonico

**ALYSE TEREZAS** was referred by member Marty Glanzman. Alyse studied at Siena Heights College in Michigan. Now retired, her occupations included being an art teacher and a career counselor. She joined to update her social and intellectual skills.

**BETH FELDMAN** graduated from North Dakota State University with her degree in Home Economics Education. After teaching in this field and moving many times, she is now retired. A resident of Saratoga, Beth is an avid bridge player.

**GLORIA McGIVERAN** graduated from Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. Her career was as an accountant. Now retired to Los Gatos, Gloria is a snowbird. She spends half a year in Florida.

**CINDY CHAVEZ** has rejoined after several years. A graduate of SJSU, Cindy is a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

**NOREGEN NOBLE** graduated from the University of San Jose Recoletos in the Philippines. She is employed as an accountant. She joined to be part of her community.

**KATHLEEN ROMANO**, a resident of Santa Clara, graduated from SJSU in 1995. She is employed as a Global Sales Operations Manager. She was referred by member Sari Fitzwater. Kathleen is very interested in Public Policy and Title IX.



Medical Emergencies



Job Loss



Car Repairs



Home Repairs



Peace of Mind

## Financially Fit for Life Emergency

### Preparedness Tips

**Nanci Eksterowicz**

The evacuees from the recent wildfires had only moments to move out of their homes to safety. If this happened to you, would you be prepared? Suggestions for readiness include having a supply of cash (for example \$100 per family member) in smaller denominations, a supply of all prescribed medications (keep your refills up to date), a car charger for your phone, credit cards, keeping your car gas tank at least half-full, have an agreed meeting location for family members, and have an agreed upon emergency contact out of the area for family members to call to report their status.

In addition, for earthquake purposes, emergency food and water, pet supplies and carriers (note: many of the shelters for the fires did not take animals), and first aid supplies are recommended. Blankets and sleeping bags are also useful. Keep a mini emergency preparedness kit in your car, including walking shoes, in case your car is stranded due to downed bridges or buildings and you need to walk home. Flashlights and batteries, and emergency battery or solar radios are useful, too.

For more detailed information on emergency preparedness, see [Red Cross.org](https://www.redcross.org).

## BAWSI After School Program at Gardner School

**Jean Reed**, Title IX/Sports Equity Interest Group

AAUW members will have an opportunity to watch girls in action on December 5 when we visit Gardner School to observe the Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative (BAWSI) after school program. BAWSI sends college athletes to underserved schools where they work with 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders to build confidence in physical activity and self-awareness. You may want to join in one of their "games;" I know you will be moved by the self-reflection cycle that is part of each session. Check in at the main office of Gardner School by 12:30. The BAWSI girls will be "in action" from 12:40 to 1:55 pm. Contact [Jean Reed](#) with questions.



## October Bridge Winners

[Bobbie Eckerman](#)

**First Monday:** Judy Kumagai, Lida Kluzek, Bobbie Eckerman

**Second Monday:** Mary Braley, Alma Powell, Lida Kluzek

**Second Thursday:** Sandra Savage, Sue Swackhamer, Rise Berry

**Second Friday (Duplicate):** Lida Kluzek, Bobbie Eckerman, Darline Wilson

**Third Friday:** Sandy Bonnet, Alma Powell

# AAUW San Jose Branch Bonfire

## December 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 Dec 4 9:30 am - 12:30 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Pat Mikolic](#))
- Tue Dec 5 10 am - 12 pm **German Conversation** ([Barbara Snyder](#))  
11:30 am - 2 pm **Lunch Bunch** Bellagio, 33 S Central Ave #A, Campbell (RSVP [Diana Taylor](#))  
12:30 pm - 2 pm **Title IX/Sports Equity BAWSI Day** - Gardner School ([Jean Reed](#))  
6 pm - 8 pm **Public Policy** ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Wed Dec 6 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm **Board Meeting** - Social time from 6:30, meeting from 7 pm ([Sharon Bouska/Bobbie Baker](#))
- Thu Dec 7 1 pm - 3 pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
- Fri Dec 8 10 am - 2 pm **Duplicate Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Sat Dec 9 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm **Couples Gourmet** (RSVP [Margaret Bard](#))
- Sun Dec 10 2 pm - 4 pm **Holiday Tea** (See front page)
- Mon Dec 11 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 Dec 12 10 am - 11:30 am **Book Discussion** ([Terry McBride](#))  
10 am - 11:30 am **Conversacion Espanol** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
- Wed Dec 13 10 am - 2 pm **Art Appreciation** - San Jose Museum of Art - Crossroads: American Scenes (RSVP [Jan Bartolotta](#))
- Thu Dec 14 7:15 pm - 10 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Fri Dec 15 10 am - 1 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Sat Dec 16 4 pm - 9:30 pm **Holiday Lights Walk** ([Jean Reed](#))
- Mon Dec 18 6 pm - 9 pm **International Gourmet** - Gift Exchange & Dessert (RSVP [Brenda Ladewig](#))
- Tue Dec 19 10 am - 11:45 am **French Conversation** ([Barbara Snyder](#))  
1 pm - 3 pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
- Mon Dec 25 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm **Gourmet Vegetarian** ([Jean Wyatt](#))
- Tue Dec 26 7:15 pm - 10 pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))



Thu Jan 18 7 pm – 8:30 **New-Member Social**  
Sat Jan 20 **Women's March - San Jose**

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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 -- For the Next Women's March**

Join the group of mothers, grandmothers, everyone who supports women on for the 2018 election year is "Hear Our January BONFIRE and on the AAUW San



daughters, sisters, aunts, friends and Saturday, January 20, 2018. The theme "Vote!" More details to follow in the Jose website.



*Empowering Women Since 1881*

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