

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE



Empowering Women Since 1881



WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY

Fall Event
Saturday, September 15
First Congregational Church of San Jose - Fellowship Hall
[1980 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose](#)
(corner of Leigh and Hamilton) - easy parking on-site
Social: 9:30 am - 10:15 am
Program: 10:15 am - noon

Keynote Speaker, Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, will share her observations on the contributions of women in Santa Clara County and her recommendations for non-partisan action that can support change. She will also take questions from the audience.

Join us for one of the most anticipated events of the year! Catch up with friends and see what the Board has planned for the upcoming year.



Social begins at 9:30. Enjoy a continental breakfast buffet provided by members. Peruse Interest Group and Community Action Project tables for expanded opportunities for participation; meet your new Board, Local Scholarship recipients, and Tech Trek participants and honor 50-year members. 2018-2019 Handbook/Directories will be available to pick up.

Membership is taking sign-ups for food donations - looking for breakfast/brunch type finger foods. Please email jbartolo@pacbell.net if you can provide a breakfast treat.

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



President's Corner

September 2018

President Virginia Beck

Women Making a Difference, Individually and Collectively

Virginia Kay Beck, President

This month, I recognize our President-Elect, Peg Carlson-Bowen. Peg continues to be Chair of Public Policy and to actively bring her passion to the advocacy part of the AAUW mission statement. Peg epitomizes bringing the mission to life to our members, potential members and the community.

Her advocacy activities are really too numerous to list, but two I want to emphasize: first, the development and presentation of the workshops "Make Your Voice Heard" and "Overcoming Political Overwhelm." Second, she goes to other organizations' events to create a more connected community to draw people to AAUW who also share a passion for advocacy.

In considering her role in AAUW, Peg states, "I realized burdens are less heavy when others share the load - when I'm tired, I know I can rest for a bit, practice self-care, then pick up the fight again. We are so lucky to have a well-defined vision, a long and respected track record and an infrastructure to give us a boost. AAUW makes the difference for me."

Peg Carlson-Bowen is a Woman Making a Difference.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Bobbie Baker and Mary Jane Vitkovich



Our June soiree was a great success. We enjoyed listening to Terri West, Outreach Manager from Sacred Heart Community Service, speak about services they offer to the disadvantaged in our community. Our generous members donated many diapers and onesies for children they serve (see picture).

Our next Neighbors Helping Neighbors meeting will be held on Monday, October 1 (we will not have a September meeting). All members are welcome. We will be discussing projects we are undertaking over the coming year and how you can help. Here is one timely, easy way at this time: Santa Maria Urban Ministry needs new school supplies. Please consider purchasing items over the coming month, as supplies are now on sale.



Tech Trek Camp Karelle Cornwell, Tech Trek Chair

It was another fun and educational week at Tech Trek this summer. Thanks to the generous contributions from Branch members, we were able to send nine girls to Tech Trek at Stanford University for a one-week STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) camp. In the spring, we interviewed seventeen 7th grade girls from five different schools in San Jose. Each of these candidates was chosen by her math and science teachers for her interest and aptitude in STEM subjects. After the interviews, we selected nine to attend camp. The girls who were selected were thrilled to learn that they would be going to Stanford, getting a taste of college life by staying in the dorms and getting hands-on experience in various topics in science, technology, engineering and math.

Here are a few quotes from our campers:

*This has opened my eyes to many new and different careers that I had never heard of before.

*During the time that I've spent at this camp with my fellow campers, I have become a more independent and confident girl.

*Being here at Tech Trek was one of the best experiences I have had.

*I never knew that there were so many things that I can do as a woman to change the world.

Campers will be at Fall Event to tell us about the highlights of their week at camp.

Gifts for Teens—Did You Know? Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens



Gifts for Teens, as a Community Action Project, works year-round to provide holiday gift bags to homeless and needy South Bay teens. But did you know the outreach this project has within our community and agencies serving this population? Our holiday gift bags also serve as an incentive for teens to visit one of the five agencies we serve to access counseling, health care, housing help, job training and complete educational goals.

In 2017, 1,285 gift bags were distributed to 655 teens living in inner city areas served by Sacred Heart Community Service, and 4,441 homeless teens and youths in group homes were served by the Bill Wilson Center. In addition, 102 Unity Care Group clients from seven downtown group homes and two low-income apartment complexes were aided: 25 homeless teens served by Home First, 49 Advent Group (two homes for male teens and a training program for older youths), and 13 individuals from three poor families were served as well.

This outreach could not be done without the community's help. Gifts for Teens' sixteen-member all-volunteer committee has been generously aided by AAUW San Jose members, local industry, the tech community, philanthropic groups and the community at large. Last year, 383 volunteers worked during our gift bag assembly, 148 donors contributed \$86,267, and 110 donors gave personal items such as cosmetics, games, scarves, and store gift cards. Teens helping needy teens spearheaded donation drives at many high schools.

Gifts for Teens is grateful for your continued support, whether volunteer-wise or monetary-wise. Be on the lookout for the AAUW gift bag assembly sign-up date information in the next BONFIRE.

Take Action – AAUW Opposes Brett Kavanaugh

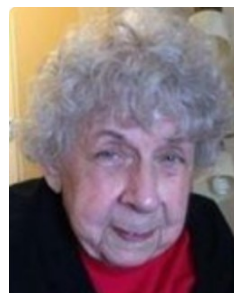
AAUW has taken a [position opposing the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court](#).

Available records show that Judge Kavanaugh will not stand up for the health, education, and economic security of women and girls. The Supreme Court is arbiter of many of the rights essential to women and girls, and if confirmed Judge Kavanaugh could cause grave harm to issues that are central to the AAUW mission for decades to come.

Please take action today to let your senators know that you expect their leadership in opposing the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh. Use the [Two-Minute Activist](#) link or call 502-200-1648 and follow instructions to leave a simple message:

"I oppose the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh." Your message will be used to validate opposition actions by our senators.

IN MEMORIAM



Jean McNamara passed away on June 6. A retired elementary school teacher with a Master's degree, she was active in Lunch Bunch and Art Appreciation among other interest groups. Jean loved good conversation, good food, meeting new people and had a passion for the arts. She had strong political views, was an advocate for women's rights and always added so much to whatever group she was in. It was a joy to have known her; she will be missed.

Make Your Voice Heard - 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 drop box 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. Your message can be very short. Just state what you want them to Support or Oppose. Sign with your name and zip code.

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.

ADDRESSES FOR OUR CALIFORNIA SENATORS:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Senator Kamala Harris
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Weekend Walkers September 23 10am – 3pm



Viva Calle SJ is a recreational program that temporarily closes miles of San Jose streets to bring communities together to walk, bike, skate, play, and explore the city like never before. Meet at the Convention Center Light Rail Station at 10 am. We will walk to the County Fairgrounds and back, about six miles, with a stop for lunch. For information, contact [Jean Reed](#).



July 2018 Bridge Winners Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Michele Morkovson,
Pat Mikolic, Pat Seaman
Second Monday: Pat Seaman,
Rosemary Busch,
Sally Keyes
Second Thursday: Darline Wilson,
Bobbie Eckerman
Second Friday (Duplicate): Jean Kudlick,
Darline Wilson,
Joan Benedetti,
Bobbie Eckerman
Third Friday: Bobbie Eckerman,
andy Bonnet,
Francine Hileman
Fourth Tuesday: Nancy Valby,
Darline Wilson



SAVE THE DATE
Dinner and Voting
Anna Fox, Public Policy Committee
Wednesday, October 18, 6:30 pm



Our October Third Wednesday program is "Dinner and Voting" and will take place on Wednesday, October 18 with dinner served at 6:30 pm and the program beginning around 7 pm.

A healthy democracy is important. Voting is critical. Political tension in our country is high. It's discouraging to hear people don't vote because they are too busy, it's too complicated, they feel uninformed, they think everything is rigged, they think their vote won't make a difference, etc.

How do you currently vote? Maybe like my husband and I? We sit down at our computers and walk ourselves through the ballot.

Before the June elections, I wondered, how can we make voting more fun? Yes, **FUN**.

So we invited another couple to join us, and we first shared dinner and then we voted together. We used our laptops, phones, snail mail flyers, etc. and we tackled each candidate and ballot measure together. We researched beforehand, or on our laptops and phones during the process, we checked our sources, we each spoke about issues most important to us, etc. The evening left us more informed and feeling better about our participation in the election!

Our Public Policy group would also like to take the sting out of voting and see if we can be both serious and have fun (with voting)! Therefore, you are invited to Headquarters on Wednesday, October 18 from 6:30 pm to about 8:30 pm, where we will provide dinner and then we can all sit-down to go over each candidate and ballot measure together.

Here are the simple ground rules and steps for participation.

- 1) RSVP to me, [Anna Fox](#) by Monday, October 15. I will also field any and all questions.
- 2) Sometime during September, confirm that your voter registration is current and accurate --some rare technical glitches have eliminated long-time voters from the rolls.
- 3) Sign up for an absentee ballot ASAP, if you wish. *Bring your absentee ballot or voter's guide with you to our event!
- 4) Agree on the ground rule that we are doing this to improve the process, NOT tell each other how to vote. Respectful debate is okay, but heavy conflict is not.
- 5) We will have a timekeeper per each item, and work to keep within the allotted time.
- 6) We encourage you to familiarize yourself with what's on the ballot as much as you are able, but don't feel pressured. One of the perks of voting together is that some issues you will feel informed, and others you will learn during the process.

AAUW San Jose Branch BONFIRE

SEPTEMBER 2018 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 [Pam Dougherty](#). 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 Sep 4 10am - 12pm **German Conversation** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
 7pm - 8:30pm **Public Policy** ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Wed Sep 5 5 - 6:30pm **AAUW Board Setup** ([Virginia Beck](#))
 6:30pm - 7pm **AAUW Board Social Hour**; 7pm - 8:30pm **AAUW BOARD Meeting** ([Virginia Beck](#))
- Thu Sep 6 1pm - 3pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
- Sat Sep 8 6:30pm - 9:30pm **Couples Gourmet** (RSVP [Margaret Bard](#))
- Sun Sep 9 12pm - 4pm **Film Fans** (RSVP [Linda Snashall](#))
- Mon Sep 10 10am - 1pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Rosemary Busch](#))
 1:30pm - 2:30pm **Financially Fit for Life** ([Leslie Larson](#))
 6pm - 9pm **Light Gourmet** (RSVP [Cheryl Markman](#))
- Tue Sep 11 10am - 11:30am **Book Discussion** ([Terry McBride](#))
 10am - 11:30am **Conversacion Espanol** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
- Wed Sep 12 10am - 1:30pm **Art Appreciation** ([Jan Bartolotta](#))
 6pm - 7pm **Title IX Sports Equity** ([Laura Manthey](#))
- Thu Sep 13 7:15pm - 10pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Fri Sep 14 10am - 2pm **Duplicate Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
 2pm - 4pm **Local Scholarship** ([Marilyn Jackson](#))
- Sat Sep 15 9:30am - 12:00pm **FALL EVENT** - First Congregational Church, Fellowship Hall, 1980 Hamilton Ave.,
 San Jose ([Jan Bartolotta](#))
- Mon Sep 17 6:30pm - 9pm **International Gourmet** (RSVP [Judy Collard](#))
- Tues Sep 18 10am - 11:45am **French Conversation** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
 1pm - 3pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
- Thu Sep 20 10am - 12pm **Family History** ([Susan Brundage](#))
 7pm - 8:30pm **Mystery Lovers** ([Sharon Shephard](#)). Book: The Wanted by Robert Crais
- Fri Sep 21 10am - 1pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Sun Sep 23 10am - 3pm **WEEK END WALKERS. Viva Calle SJ** - See article. RSVP [Jean Reed](#))
- Mon Sep 24 9:30am - 11am **Building and Properties Committee** ([Linda Goldberg](#))
 6:30pm - 7:30pm **Gourmet Vegetarian** ([Jean Wyatt](#))
- Tue Sep 25 7pm - 8:30pm **Great Decisions Evening Group** ([Mary Ann Carnevale](#))
 7:15pm - 10pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Thu Sep 27 6:30pm - 8:30pm **Game Night** (RSVP by Monday to Sandee Plymire (408) 280-5799)
- Fri Sep 28 1pm - 3pm **Local Scholarship** ([Margaret Bard](#))
- Sat Sep 29 10:30am - 12pm **College/University Relations Committee** ([Alyce Athanasiou](#))

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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.

San Jose Branch

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PERIODICALS

POSTAGE PAID

AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

October Program

Local Scholarship Community Action Project

Saturday, October 13, 10 - 11:30 am

Vineland Library Community Room

[1450 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose](#)

Reception following



Learn about Local Scholarship and its history and successes. Meet this year's scholarship recipients. Learn how your donations make a difference in the lives of these worthy young women.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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