

San Jose Branch

**BONFIRE****Empowering Women Since 1881****Holiday Lights Celebration****Saturday, December 15****5:30 pm to 8 pm at Headquarters**

Let's get together to celebrate the holidays. This is a chance to share holiday treats with AAUW friends and to share with the less fortunate, too. The Willow Glen neighborhood is well known for holiday decorations. Take a tour of the holiday lights – on foot, by car, or from your chair!

Donations - Canned goods for Second Harvest Food Bank. Beans and canned meats are recommended, in easy-open cans if possible.

Potluck - Please bring any dish to share.

Cookie Exchange - If you bring 2 dozen cookies in addition to your potluck dish, you will get to take home an assortment of holiday cookies

Holiday Lights Tour - Three options:

- **Walk** - Join the Weekend Walkers and Bay Area Striders to walk through the neighborhood, leaving at about 6:30. We usually take one to one and half hours for the walk. Bring a flash-light.
- **Drive** - There will also be a map if you choose to drive, but know that there will be a lot of traffic!
- **Watch** - Enjoy a "virtual" tour of the neighborhood lights right at Headquarters.

Contact [Jean Reed](#) with questions or if you want to help out.

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



## **President's Corner**

**December 2018**

**President Virginia Beck**

At the November meeting, Elin Bolt and Linda Snashall led a discussion about the Branch website. They stressed the importance of keeping the public part of the web site very up-to-date. There is a SJSU student project reviewing the site and giving them input.

AAUW Funds and LAF announced they are changing their fundraising process. They will no longer send an appeal letter in February, but instead will send an appeal letter with the Branch renewal applications in May. They will also send out a second appeal letter before the holidays when people are often making year-end donations. They will no longer hold a fundraising event in the spring.

Suzanne Doty, Finance Officer, moved on behalf of the Finance Committee to allocate a maximum of \$4,000 from the Ruby Trombetta Funds for Tech Trek scholarships, advertising for the Local Scholarship Holiday Boutique, and money for two spring programs. The motion was passed.

### **Gifts for Teens - It's Not Too Late!**

#### **Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens**

There's still time to make a difference for needy South Bay teens or to make those end-of-the-year donations. Here's how:

Item donations needed - store gift cards in \$10.00 amounts and women/men's PJs, size large. Contact [Beverly@gifts4teens.org](mailto:Beverly@gifts4teens.org)

Cash donations - Contact [elaine@gifts4teens.org](mailto:elaine@gifts4teens.org)

Gift bag assembly dates - December 5 to December 17.  
Contact [Kathy@gifts4teens.org](mailto:Kathy@gifts4teens.org)

Site location - 14928 Cambrian Park Plaza, San Jose



### Women Making a Difference, Individually and Collectively Virginia Kay Beck, President

It is my pleasure to profile Suzanne Doty this month as a woman making a difference. Suzanne has been active in women's issues since the 1970s when she was active in the Chicago chapter of NOW, working for the ERA passage in Illinois. She organized a statewide rally in which over 20,000 women participated. Thank goodness, she stayed active when she moved to Santa Clara County and became a member of the Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women. This commission advises the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on all issues pertaining to women and girls. Suzanne served as the CSW Chair from 2008-2012 and then as Chair of the Association of California Commissions for Women from 2012 – 2016. Her tenaciousness while working on passage of CEDAW (Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women), passed by the UN in the Carter era, led to its passage by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the City of San Jose City Council in December 2017.

As Suzanne states, "Equal rights for others does not mean fewer rights for you - it's not pie!" She is a woman making a difference.



#### Holiday Boutique Wrap-Up Cheryl Markman Local Scholarship Committee

Happy Holidays and Thank You from the Local Scholarship Committee. Due to the generosity of everyone who contributed to and shopped at the 2018 Holiday Boutique last month, Local Scholarship raised over \$8,000! And this total may go even higher as Branch members still have the opportunity to purchase baskets and the few remaining items not sold on the day of the Boutique. Check out the items for sale in the Parlor. Again, thanks to you all for your generous donations and purchases!

#### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for preparing a list of nominees for all elected offices and new members of the Building and Properties Committee. The Nominating Committee will be selected by the Board at the December Board meeting. Any member is invited to submit her name to be part of this very important committee. There will be a meeting in January to begin the process of selecting a new slate of officers. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please contact Bobbie Baker, immediate Past President and Co-Chair of this committee.

***"There is no greater gift you can give or receive than to honor your calling. It's why you were born."***

***-Oprah Winfrey***

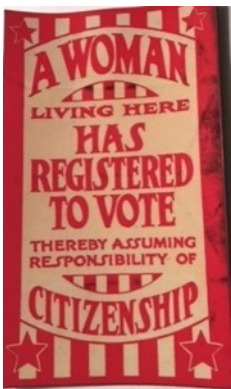
### **Warm Clothing Needed**

Mary Jane Vitkovich  
Neighbors Helping  
Neighbors



Neighbors Helping Neighbors is collecting gently-used jackets, sweaters, warm hats, scarves, sweatshirts, and gloves for Santa Maria Urban Ministry. Please put your donated items in the bins located in the Headquarters Parlor closets.

### **Update on 100 Years of Suffrage Celebration Sharon Bouska**



I have been asked to be part of the Santa Clara County Woman's Political Caucus Steering Committee. What a mouthful! This committee will be responsible for planning a Woman's Political Caucus for February 2, 2019. Women who have been elected or appointed to public service

(non-partisan) are going to be invited. What can AAUW bring to this event? The workshop I have volunteered to coordinate is "Wage Equity." I am planning on sharing AAUW's "Simple Truth: The Gender Pay Gap" research document, as well as introducing the Work Smart program that is now available online as well as at workshops in many cities, but not in Santa Clara County. YET.

The County of Santa Clara 2020 Task Force Committee convened November 14 and I will keep you informed of what we accomplish.

### **What are the AAUW Funds? Thea Jacobs, AAUW Funds VP**

The AAUW Funds provide educational opportunities and equity for women and girls through research and support of fellowship and grant programs. The AAUW Fund has become one of the largest sources of funding in the world for graduate women. Your contributions open the door to educational and economic opportunities that would not otherwise be available.

The AAUW Funds also finance a number of other important programs. These include the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, which supports research important to women and girls, Leadership Program Funds such as Elect Her, and the Public Policy Funds that support advocacy for laws and public policies that affect women and girls.

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), which is now included in AAUW Funds, works to protect the legal rights of those who are faced with discrimination in higher education and the workplace. The LAF maintains a resource library, online advocacy tools, provides case support for LAF plaintiffs, and works through community and campus outreach programs.

In the last 5 years, AAUW San Jose has raised more than \$165,000 to support the work of AAUW Funds and LAF! Though dollars are raised at the local level, the AAUW Fund is administered by our national organization in Washington, D.C. Donations to AAUW Funds and LAF are welcome at any time. Just go to [Donate to AAUW](#) and fill out the form.

Thank you for your continued and generous support of these vital programs.



**Jasmine Ureno-Diaz  
Receives Mary Fitzgerald Fellowship  
Linda Guyer, Media Relations**



Fitzgerald family with scholarship recipient Jasmine Oreno-Diaz

Jasmine Ureno-Diaz is an eighteen-year-old junior at UC Berkeley this fall. I talked with her about her amazing journey into higher education. Jasmine is the oldest of four; she began taking Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses as a freshman in high school. She had dual enrollment at Andrew Hill High School and Evergreen Community College. Her inspiration was watching her mother, Maribel Ureno, raise four children while sometimes working three jobs and attending college. Jasmine's father also worked seven days a week, holding several jobs at once. Jasmine says "I felt privileged I did not have to work or parent. I had secure status as an American born in this country. I could focus my energies on education. I often remember getting up at night as an eight-year-old and seeing my mother studying."

By the end of high school, Jasmine had earned 46 college credits and could enter the university with advanced standing. Her dream college was UC Berkeley; however, with much reflection and needing a break, Jasmine enrolled at Evergreen Community College for a year with the idea to take

a breath, travel and become involved in campus life. She sees this as the best decision she could have made. That year she was Vice President of ENLACE, an educational program for Chicanx-Latinx students, attended a conference and was chosen to attend the Hispanic Institute in Washington DC. As a result of her continuing volunteer work with Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN) she received a scholarship at age 16.

This fall she entered UC Berkeley with junior standing, declaring dual majors in Political Science and Women/Gender Studies.

Recently Jasmine met with long-time AAUW San Jose member Mary Fitzgerald's family, including Stan Fitzgerald and four of his daughters. Jasmine says that upon learning about Mary's life, she felt a strong connection with Mary's qualities of connection, passion, and modesty. Mary saw the community interconnected with the universe, which resonates with Jasmine and parallels her work at Berkeley. Thanks to everyone's support, we will continue into our 37th year of awarding scholarships.

**AAUW T-Shirts for the Women's March!  
Peg Carlson-Bowen  
Public Policy Committee**

Public Policy is requesting funds to provide V-neck t-shirts with our logo for the Women's March on Saturday, January 19. In preparation, we will have samples and a sign-up sheet available at Headquarters. Please try the samples on for size and sign up! And do plan to join us on the third Wednesday of January to make non-partisan signs and pick up your t-shirt!

### New Member Profiles

#### Claire Campodonico

**CHRIS CARNEY** received a BA in English Literature from SJSU. Now retired from Hewlett-Packard and Intuit as an Executive Assistant, she was referred by member Susan Brundage. She also attended one of our Branch's Open Houses.

**SHARON CLUTE** graduated from Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo with a BS in Food Science. She is an Environmental Inspector with the City of San Jose. She inspects the landfills and waste processing facilities in San Jose. She joined at our booth at the Camden Community Event.

**CATHERINE EDWARDS** earned her MBA from Boston University. Throughout her 35-year career primarily in high technology, she focused on strategic marketing, public relations and corporate communications. Since retiring, she has volunteered with Gifts for Teens, is learning Spanish and enjoys travel. She was referred by member Elaine Benoit.

**SHAHNAZ FARAHPOUR** received a BS in Mathematics from Purdue University. After graduation, she returned to Iran. Twelve years later, she moved to California. Now retired from her career in medical billing, she was referred by member Charlotte MacKay. She joined because she deeply admires what AAUW represents.

**JULIA WOODS** studied at Concordia University (Montreal, Quebec, Canada), earning a BA in Communication Studies. Now retired, she worked in the fashion and textile industry as an in-house designer assistant. Member Sharon Burkett referred her.

**CHRISTINA DUARTE** graduated from UC Santa Cruz in 2015, earning an AA in Paralegal Studies and a BA in Philosophy. She is employed as a legal assistant by Lonich & Patton, LLP (family law). She was a Local Scholarship recipient in 2013 and 2014.

**RAMONA ROMANDIA** earned her BA degree from the National Hispanic University. At the University of Arizona, she received a Master's in Information and Library Science. She has retired from her position as a library clerk for the City of San Jose. Ramona was referred by member Consuelo Rodriguez.

**CARLA COLLINS** graduated from Santa Clara University with a BA in Philosophy with an emphasis in Ethnic Studies. She has been employed by the County of Santa Clara as Deputy Director of the Office of Women's Policy for the past 13 years. Carla was referred by member Suzanne Doty.

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."***

***Margaret Mead***



### October 2018 Bridge Winners Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Mary Braley, Leela Viswanathan  
Second Monday: Bobbie Eckerman, Mary Braley  
Second Thursday: Virginia Beck, Nancy Valby,  
Bobbie Eckerman  
Second Friday: Kennette Shannon, Nancy Valby,  
Judy Kumagai  
Third Friday: Leela Viswanathan, Lida Kluzek  
Fourth Tuesday: Virginia Beck

## December 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](#).

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Mon Dec 3  | 9:30am-12:30pm <b>Bridge</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Pat Mikolic</a> )  |
| Tue Dec 4. | 10am-12pm <b>German Conversation</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )<br>7-8:30pm <b>Public Policy</b> ( <a href="#">Peg Carlson-Bowen</a> )  |
| Wed Dec 5  | 7-8:30pm <b>AAUW BOARD Meeting</b> ( <a href="#">Virginia Beck</a> )  |
| Thu Dec 6  | 1-3pm <b>Knitting Know How</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Margaret McCartney</a> )   |
| Sat Dec 8  | 6:30-9:30pm <b>Couples Gourmet</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Margaret Bard</a> )  |
| Sun Dec 9  | TBD <b>Film Fans</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Linda Snashall</a> )   |
| Mon Dec 10 | 10am-1pm <b>Bridge</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Rosemary Busch</a> )<br>1:30-2:30pm <b>Financially Fit for Life</b> ( <a href="#">Leslie Larson</a> )<br>6-9pm <b>Light Gourmet</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Cheryl Markman</a> )                             |
| Tue Dec 11 | 10-11:30am <b>Book Discussion</b> - No Book, Restaurant Lunch ( <a href="#">Terry McBride</a> )<br>10-11:30am <b>Conversacion Espanol</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )  |
| Wed Dec 12 | 10am-2pm <b>Art Appreciation</b> de Young Museum - Contemporary Muslim Fashion<br>(Joann Moritz 408-806-8615)   |
| Thu Dec 13 | 7:15-10pm <b>Bridge</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )   |
| Fri Dec 14 | 10am-2pm <b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )  |
| Sat Dec 15 | 5:30-8pm <b>Holiday Lights Celebration/Walk</b>   |
| Mon Dec 17 | 6:30-9pm <b>International Gourmet</b> Desert and Gift Exchange ( <a href="#">Brenda Ladewig</a> )   |
| Tue Dec 18 | 10-11:45am <b>French Conversation</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )<br>1-3pm <b>Knitting Know How</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Margaret McCartney</a> )<br>7-8:30pm <b>Public Policy Working Groups</b> ( <a href="#">Peg Carlson-Bowen</a> ) |

## SAVE THESE DATES

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Wed Jan 16 | 6-8:30pm <b>All Member Potluck:</b> Dinner & sign-making for the Women's March |
| Sat Jan 19 | <b>Women's March</b>   |



From the BONFIRE.

**San Jose Branch Bonfire** (USPS 857-400) is published monthly except July for \$8.95 per year by AAUW San Jose Branch, 1165 Minnesota Ave., San Jose CA 95125-3324.

Periodicals Postage Paid at San Jose, CA

Postmaster: Send address changes to AAUW San Jose Branch, 1165 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA

**President:** Virginia Beck

**BONFIRE Editor:** Anne Wustrow

**Editorial Staff:** Elin Bolt, Sharon Burkett, Pam Dougherty, Helen Gendler, Jan Giroux, Barb Purdy

**Distribution:** Linda Guyer, Alma Powell

**Change of Address:** Kathy Heihn

**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.

**San Jose Branch**

**AAUW Headquarters**

1165 Minnesota Avenue

San Jose, CA 95125-3324

Phone: 408-294-2430

**PERIODICALS**

**POSTAGE PAID**

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



**JANUARY THIRD WEDNESDAY**

**All Members Potluck and Sign Making Evening, January 16, 6:30 pm**

**Get Ready for the Third Annual Women's March on January 19!**

We will have AAUW T-Shirts for the March!

Samples will be available at Headquarters for you to check for your size and sign up (no cost to members). Deadline to order is January 5.

More details to follow in the January BONFIRE.



*Empowering Women Since 1881*

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