

San Jose Branch

**BONFIRE****Empowering Women Since 1881****Barriers to Education****Does Harassment Make a Difference?**

Date: Sunday, February 10

Time: 2 pm to 4 pm

Location: San Jose City College

Technology Center Room T415

Parking Map is located on page 2

Why do girls drop out of school?

Why do they fail to complete courses that lead to career success?

Why do women decide to change jobs or to stop working?

With the rise of the #MeToo movement, perhaps you have found yourself talking to friends about a long-hidden story. Or maybe you have been reminded of a traumatic experience that you don't want to share. Or maybe you have been blessed and do not have a personal story.

From success at school to the workplace to personal relationships, the impact of sexual harassment is wide. Research shows that the impact is more severe with minority and immigrant communities who have access to fewer resources.

What can be done to prevent harassment?

What protections are in place?

What is being done to change and improve women's success?

Do not miss the opportunity to learn more at the Branch program on February 10 when Maha Ibrahim of Equal Rights Advocates will present research showing how harassment can get women off track. A panel of local experts will discuss the impact at middle school, high school, college and the workplace. Legal protections and local actions will be covered.

You are encouraged to bring friends and family. Don't miss this opportunity to see #MeToo is meaningful to women and girls everywhere.

*"It strikes me that one thing that's not included in the cost is the one in five women dropping out of school because their school won't investigate their complaints of sexual violence, and that is a cost that affects everybody," said [Adaku Onyeka-Crawford](#), senior counsel for education at the National Women's Law Center.*

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



## President's Corner

February 2019

President Virginia Beck

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

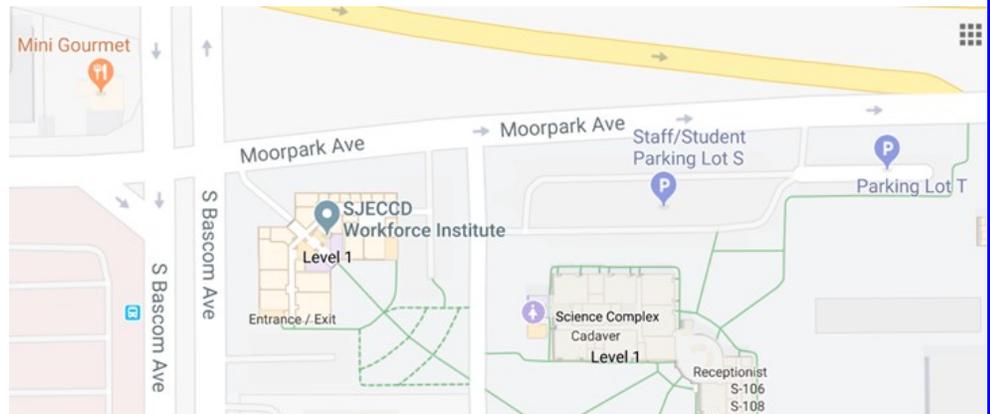
It is my pleasure to profile Nancy Moreno this month as a woman making a difference. Nancy's career has focused on technology and learning solutions in business development marketing and software development and usability, but it is her volunteer work that I find inspiring. Besides being active in AAUW San Jose as a Membership VP, Public Policy Committee member and the liaison to the SJSU marketing project, she has focused on human trafficking since January 2014 when the Super Bowl came to Santa Clara. This event highlighted the crisis of human trafficking and also created focus on human trafficking as a local issue. Nancy is a member of several coalitions to raise awareness of and put a stop to human trafficking, not just in our community but around the world. She also participates as an Advocate in Best Buddies, an organization which provides leadership and development opportunities for the intellectually and developmentally disabled; community theater for school dramas; efforts to preserve and emphasize local history, and Friends Outside, a program that provides support to the incarcerated, their family members, and those recently released.

Nancy enjoys working with AAUW because, as she states, she "...believes in the mission of AAUW to advance equity and (I am) doing my part to help future generations." Nancy Moreno is a Woman Making a Difference.

### Parking Map for Barriers to Education (see event details on page 1)



Technology Building (SJECCD), at corner of Bascom and Moorpark Avenues  
Parking is free on Sundays in Staff/Student Lots S and T off of Moorpark  
Handicap parking is available close to the entrance



## Board Matters

Kathy Myers, Secretary

Peg Carlson-Bowen began the meeting giving a presentation on the Branch's Facebook page. This continued the Communication Committee's effort to educate the Board on the use of social media.

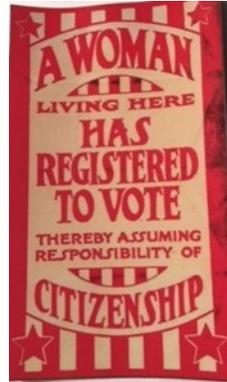
Suzanne Doty, Finance Officer, made a motion on behalf of the Finance Committee to spend no more than \$500 of the Ruby Trombetta funds by the Public Policy Committee for AAUW t-shirts for the Women's March. This motion passed.

The Nominating Committee, headed by Bobbie Baker, will begin meeting in January. The Committee requested that members contact Bobbie Baker or Sharon Bouska if they would like someone to be considered for a Board position for 2019-2020.

**Third Wednesday Program:  
Make Your Voice Heard!  
Wednesday February 20  
7 - 8:30 pm at Headquarters**



Learn how to be an advocate for AAUW's Mission in just a few minutes. Make sure your opinion is heard above the din. Don't have much time, but want to do something? Whether you're using a pen, your laptop, or your Smartphone, this workshop will help you "Make Your Voice Heard" on issues that matter to women and girls. Join us for this hands-on workshop, and go home recharged and ready to act!



## Update on 100 Years of Suffrage Celebration Sharon Bouska

For this month's 2020 article, I would like to share with you a bit of history on women and voting. When the Constitution was adopted in 1776, there was no agreement on a national standard for voting rights.

States were given the power to regulate their own voting laws. In most cases, voting remained in the hands of white males. Why weren't women included in the right to vote? We can blame it on coverture!

We inherited the principle of coverture from the English. Coverture literally means "covered woman." By marriage, the husband and wife are one person in law: that is, the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage, or at least is consolidated into that of the husband under whose wing, protection, and cover she is. Though the husband and wife are one, the one is the husband. A married woman could not own property, sign legal documents or enter into a contract, obtain an education against her husband's wishes, or keep a salary for herself. If a wife was permitted to work, under the laws of coverture she was required to relinquish her wages to her husband.

In March 1776, [Abigail Adams](#) wrote to her husband, [John Adams](#), asking for coverture to be undone in these words, "In the new [Code of Laws](#) which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could."

What Abigail voiced in 1776 became a reality in 1966 when the Supreme Court said, "the institution of coverture is ... obsolete." Justice Hugo Black wrote that coverture is based on a notion that a married woman, being a female, is without capacity to make her own contracts and do her own business, is an archaic remnant of a primitive caste system.



**Honoring Alyce Athanasiou**  
Virginia Kay Beck, President

The San Jose Evergreen Community College District Board of Trustees presented a plaque to Alyce Athanasiou at their October board meeting. They recognized her for her leadership and contributions to closing the gender wage gap for students at Evergreen Valley College. Alyce is tireless in sharing her expertise and enthusiasm with the students as she builds for the future. Thank you, Alyce!!

## A No-Brainer Tax Break

Sandra Savage  
Local Scholarship Committee

If you are at least 70½ years of age and donate to charity — for example our Branch Local

Scholarship Fund — you should consider making a donation from your individual retirement account with no intervening ownership by you. IRA custodians, such as Fidelity and Schwab, can advise you of their procedure for accomplishing this transfer.

Cathleen Pender, a San Francisco Chronicle finance journalist, wrote two long columns to explain the benefits of what she called a "no-brainer tax break" (see <https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/networth/article/A-no-brainer-tax-break-if-you-re-old-enough-13465632.php>), so our Local Scholarship Committee is not attempting in this article to present a detailed discussion. Whether filing tax returns, using itemized deductions or taking the standard deduction, you should investigate the income tax benefits of a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).



**Local Scholarship Applications Available Soon**  
Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship awards are granted to women whose permanent home address is in Campbell, Milpitas, San Jose or Santa Clara; who have completed two full years at an accredited college or university; who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher; and who will be enrolled in a four-year institution as an undergraduate in the fall of 2019. Applications for 2019 Local Scholarship awards will be available on our Branch website as of March 1. Applications will be accepted via the website beginning at 12:01 am March 1 and ending at 11:59 pm April 15, 2019.

Grants are based on significance of educational goals, scholastic achievements, merits of the application and an interview with members of the Local Scholarship Committee. The number and dollar amounts of the scholarships awarded each year depend on the funds available. In 2018, we awarded \$68,100 in scholarships to 18 deserving women! Please encourage friends and family members who meet the eligibility requirements to apply. Any questions should be directed to Margaret Bard.

## Building and Properties Committee

Linda Goldberg, Chair

It has been suggested to the Building and Properties Committee that the piano in the living room is rarely, if ever, used and with the larger gatherings happening at Headquarters we could use the space. The piano is in need of some tender loving care, but it is "free to a good home" if you arrange to have it moved. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact me or any member of the B&P Committee.



**Heartfelt Warmth for Our Neighbors**

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Neighbors Helping Neighbors supported our local community with warmth, comfort and nourishment over the past months. Warm clothing, gloves, scarves and gloves were donated to Santa Maria Urban Ministry through our "Warm Hearts" drive, which continues until March. Hygiene kits were also put together at our February meeting for Santa Maria Urban Ministry.

Over 100 lunch bags were assembled at our January meeting and donated to Lifted Spirits, where the homeless gather for fellowship and support. Our sock drive also provided women there with the pleasure of new socks to wear. We thank all you for your generosity and kindness towards our neighbors in need.

**Prospective Member Open House  
Saturday, February 2  
10-12 am at Headquarters**

Membership is hosting an Open House for people interested in learning about AAUW and our Branch. You are welcome to join us and enjoy light refreshments and meet new people. Bring your friends! RSVP [Barbara Gilbert](#) if you plan to attend.



**AAUW Members Get in the Holiday Spirit**  
Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

AAUW members donated the gift of time during Gifts for Teens bag assembly held the first two weeks in December. This year, the morning shift on December 10 was reserved for Branch members. Our goal of 1,200 bags, as well as additional special gifts, totaled 1,298 this year. The holiday gift bags were distributed through five agencies, going to needy/homeless teens and low-income families. For many of the teens, this gift bag will be the only present received during the holiday season. Besides a warm hooded sweatshirt, USB drive, tee shirts, hygiene kit, gift cards and more useful items, each teen received a warm pair of pajamas through the generosity of the Pajama Program, Bay Area Chapter. Thank you again to AAUW members who continue to make a difference in the community.

**December 2018  
Bridge Winners**  
Bobbie Eckerman



- First Monday: Mary Braley, Peggy Maibaum, Joan Benedetti
- Second Monday: Rosemary Busch, Bobbie Eckerman
- Second Thursday: Judy Hart, Jean Ann Luckhardt, Darline Wilson
- Second Friday: Judy Kumagai, Bobbie Eckerman
- Third Friday: Bridge Cancelled
- Fourth Tuesday: Bridge Cancelled

# WOMEN'S MARCH 2019



# AAUW San Jose Branch BONFIRE

## February 2019 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](#).

- Sat Feb 2 10am-12pm **Membership-Open House** ([Jan Bartolotta](#))
- Mon Feb 4 9:30am-12:30pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Pat Mikolic](#))  
7-8:30pm **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** ([Bobbie Baker](#))
- Tue Feb 5 10am-12pm **German Conversation-Parlor** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))  
7-8:30pm **Public Policy Monthly Meeting** ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Wed Feb 6 7-8:30pm. **AAUW BOARD Meeting** ([Virginia Beck](#))
- Thu Feb 7 1-3pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
- Fri Feb 8 10am-2pm **Duplicate Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Sat Feb 9 10:30am-12:30pm **College University Relations Committee -Open House** ([Alyce Athanasiou](#))  
6:30-9:30pm **Couples Gourmet** (RSVP [Margaret Bard](#))
- Sun Feb 10 TBD **Film Fans** (RSVP [Linda Snashall](#))  
2-4pm **Barriers to Education: Does Harassment Make a Difference?** San Jose City College  
(see front page) ([Jean Reed](#))
- Mon Feb 11 10am-1pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Rosemary Busch](#))  
1:30-2:30pm **Financially Fit for Life** ([Leslie Larson](#))  
6-9pm **Light Gourmet** (RSVP [Cheryl Markman](#))
- Tue Feb 12 10-11:30am **Book Discussion** ("Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power". by Jon Meacham) ([Terry McBride](#))  
10-11:30am **Conversacion Espanol-Parlor** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
- Wed Feb 13 10am-2pm **Art Appreciation**-Oakland Museum World of Charles and Ray Eames ([Margaret Bard](#))  
6-7pm **Title IX Sports Equity** ([Laura Manthey](#))  
7-8:30pm **Evening Book Discussion** (Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward) Renee Summerfeld  
([Laura Manthey](#))
- Thu Feb 14 9:30-11am **Great Decisions AM** ([Mary Ann Carnavale](#))  
7:15-10pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Fri Feb 15 10-1pm. **Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Mon Feb 18 9:30-11am. **Exploring World Literature** (Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo) ([Diana Taylor](#))  
6:30-9pm. **International Gourmet** (Canadian-[Bobbie Gilchrist](#))
- Tue Feb 19 10-11:45am **French Conversation** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))  
1-3pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
- Wed Feb 20. 7-8:30pm 3rd Wed Program "**Make Your Voice Heard**" (see article) ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Thu Feb 21 10am-12pm. **Family History** ([Susan Brundage](#))  
7-8:30pm **Mystery Lovers** (The French Girl by Lexie Elliott) ([Sharon Shephard](#))
- Fri Feb 22 1-3pm. **Local Scholarship** ([Margaret Bard](#))
- Mon Feb 25 9:30-11am **Building and Properties Committee** ([Linda Goldberg](#))  
6:30-7:30pm **Gourmet Vegetarian** ([Jean Wyatt](#))
- Tue Feb 26 11:30am-2pm **Lunch Bunch** ([Diana Taylor](#))  
7-8:30pm **Great Decisions Evening Group** ([Karelle Cornwell](#)/[Angie Ho](#))  
7:15pm-10pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Thu Feb 28 9:30-11am **Great Decisions AM** ([Mary Ann Carnavale](#))  
6:30-8:30pm **Game Night** (RSVP by Monday to Sandee Plymire (408) 280-5799)

**SAVE the DATE:** Wed Mar 20 7-8:30 pm **Historic Bay Area Visionaries** (see back page)

**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

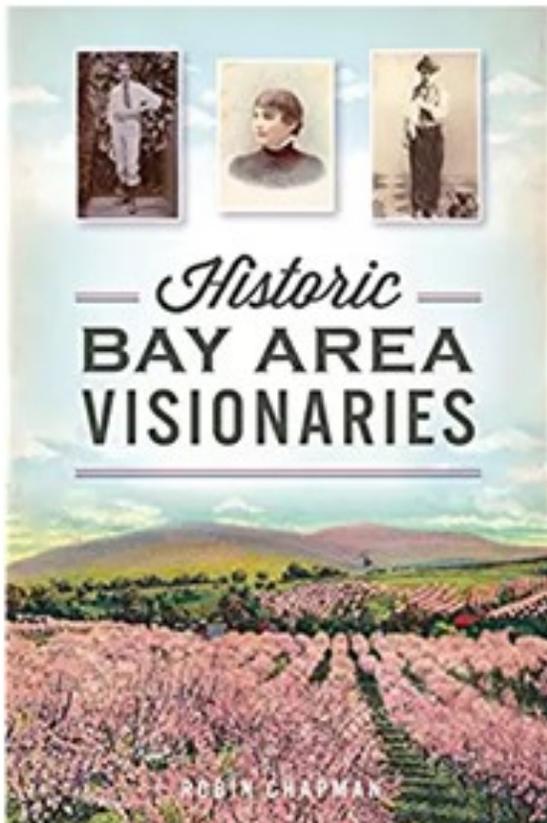
**BONFIRE ARTICLE SUBMITTAL RULES:**

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***



**Third Wednesday Program**  
**Wednesday, March 20**  
**7-8:30 pm, Headquarters**

Local author, Robin Chapman, will talk about her book "Historic Bay Area Visionaries". Juana Briones and Sarah Winchester are two of the individuals profiled in the book. Come see who these visionaries were!



*Empowering Women Since 1881*

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