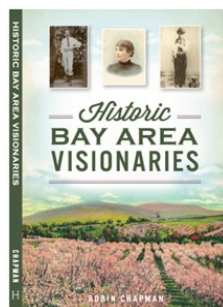


San Jose Branch

BONFIRE**Empowering Women Since 1881****View California's Story Through the Eyes of Its Earliest Visionaries****Wednesday March 20****7 – 8:30 pm at Headquarters**

There are six people from Bay Area history you will want to meet. Los Altos journalist Robin Chapman will share their stories from her new book "Historic Bay Area Visionaries," which tells the story of our state through the eyes of Lope Inigo, an indigenous man; Juana Briones, a compassionate businesswoman; Robert Louis Stevenson, the poet and writer; Sarah Winchester, the heiress to the rifle fortune; Thomas Foon Chew, a Chinese immigrant; and Charlie Chaplin, who came to Niles in 1914 and became a movie star.

Robin was the recipient of an AAUW scholarship from the Los Altos/Mountain View Branch. Don't miss this chance to learn a bit about history and how to find it today in our own backyard.

Open House and Membership Update

Nancy Moreno, Membership Committee

At the Open House on February 2, the Branch hosted nine prospective members. Five new members have signed up as we passed the 300-membership mark, and more are potentially interested in joining. Outreach efforts are working as people came after learning about our Branch at the Women's March, on our Facebook page, from flyers at the library, at the SCC Women's Leadership Summit, and of course, referrals from a friend. Together we are helping the Branch to grow!

Save the dates for our next **Open House on Saturday, March 30** and the **New Member Chat on Saturday, May 18**. They both start at **noon and end at 2 pm**. Be a friend and bring a friend to share all that AAUW has to offer!

"I may sometimes be willing to teach for nothing, but if paid at all, I shall never do a man's work for less than a man's pay."

Clara Barton

Founded the American Red Cross in 1881

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



President's Corner

March 2019

President Virginia Beck

Women Making a Difference, Individually and Collectively

Virginia Kay Beck, President

For several months, I have been profiling women making a difference collectively with the organizations about which they are passionate. This month, I am delighted to share Nanci Eksterowicz's story of making a difference in one person's life. I am going to share Nanci's story in her own words.

"Seventeen years ago, an acquaintance told me about an organization in which she was involved: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). This group matches trained volunteers with individual children in the Foster Care System who need a supportive adult friend in their lives. After applying and going to training, I met Rachel, a six-year-old who had been removed from her parents' home and was struggling in first grade. Our first date was a success and began the happy friendship that endures to this day.

Over the years, we had weekly play dates and coped with family issues and court appearances. Through the years, we explored libraries, read together, and visited every museum and zoo and farm the Bay Area had to offer. We had cooking adventures, gardened, and went whale watching. Over the years, Rachel's grades really improved. She sang in the school choruses and was very active in Theater Arts and social justice interests.

When she was small, I took her to college campuses for events and then as a junior, we did the college tour. Rachel got grants and scholarships and worked several jobs to put herself through college. In May 2018, she graduated with honors from Humboldt State University with a major in Sociology. She is the first person in her family to graduate from college. We were a great match and she became the daughter I never had. Both of us treasure our loving friendship.

As Hillary Clinton says, "It takes a village." Nanci Eksterowicz is a Woman Making A Difference!

Board Matters

At the February 6, 2019 Board Meeting, Marilyn Jackson gave a presentation regarding the Inter-Branch Special Projects Foundation (ISPF) for AAUW of Santa Clara County. She explained how donations to AAUW are routed in order to assure they are compliant with the laws to maintain the ability of donors to deduct the donation on their tax form. She also explained the importance of the donations being addressed properly.

Leslie Larson updated the Board regarding Work Smart and Bobbie Baker impressed the Board with the activities going on in Neighbors Helping Neighbors. (See their articles for further details)

AAUW San Jose Meets with Kim Churches, CEO of AAUW Leslie Larson

At the end of January, nine women from Bay Area AAUW branches convened in San Francisco with Kim Churches, CEO of AAUW. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Work Smart salary negotiation program and the AAUW National campaign to train 10 million women, either in person or online, by 2022. The goal is to eliminate the 20% gender pay gap which results in a lifetime earnings loss of between \$400,000-\$1M+, affecting virtually every woman's economic well-being ("[Frequently Asked Questions about the Gender Pay Gap](#)").

Kim spoke about the strategic focus of AAUW — the advancement of gender equity for women and girls. To do this AAUW will: 1) protect and expand Title IX; 2) create paths to high earning careers; 3) achieve pay equity; and 4) advance the number of women in leadership.

The Work Smart program is a practical effort to achieve pay equity. Research shows that men are four times more likely than women to negotiate salary and benefits ([AAUW 2018 Year in Review](#), p. 1). AAUW San Jose will join this effort, leveraging Santa Clara County's "Women's Policy Agenda." We are in the process of planning our effort to roll out the Work Smart program. Everyone can participate in the Work Smart salary negotiating program by taking the training online at salary.aauw.org.

AAUW is fortunate to have the inspiring Kim Churches laser focused on leading the organization to advocate for equity and economic security for women and girls. She sees this as the moment to make a significant difference. We agree!

Truth to Power - Third Annual Women's March

Anna Fox, Membership Committee

On Saturday January 19, our Branch had a strong and inspirational presence at the third annual "Truth to Power" San Jose Women's March. Members marched together in our custom-made blue AAUW t-shirts. At the end of the March, we had a booth in the area appropriately named "Action Alley" where we shared our mission with those interested in learning about AAUW.

This effort was a combination of work between the Membership Committee and the Public Policy Committee. A big THANK YOU to Peg Carlson-Bowen for heading it up. Also thanks to Nancy Moreno for working with SJSU students to create promotional materials. And thanks to all the faces and hostesses of AAUW San Jose for the day!

The March will be an ongoing item/project for the Membership Committee from June to January. If you have any input or ideas, please share them with Membership V.P.

Dues for New Members in Spring 2019

Nancy Moreno, Membership Committee

Recent changes to the membership dues structure aim to empower new members to engage and become active. Since National AAUW stopped offering its half-year discount this year, the Branch Board decided to do the same, thus offering new members time to get involved in the various Branch activities. New members joining in the spring 2019 will enjoy membership through June 2020. Dues for degree-seeking students were also adjusted and simplified. Both undergraduate and graduate students attending approved AAUW member schools will now be eligible for free membership. Those students attending non-AAUW schools will need to pay only national and state dues. These changes align with our goals to be welcoming, thus allowing new members to help spread the mission and value of AAUW.

Advocacy in Action

Nancy Moreno, Public Policy Committee

The "Women in Action" bulletin board at Headquarters is updated monthly with a current topic for policy advocacy. In February, the topic was to support the Paycheck Fairness Act and a fact sheet was provided. All are encouraged to submit a postcard each time they are at Headquarters. Supplies, including postcards and address labels, are provided. Simply drop your postcard in the box by the board and it will be mailed. If you have a topic of interest to add, please contact Public Policy members facilitating the topics for advocacy: Susan Karlins, Jean Reed, Leticia Cowan, and Nancy Moreno.



Additional advocacy tips include using your smartphone as we learned at "Make Your Voice Heard," the February topic at the Third Wednesday Program. All are encouraged to also be a Two-Minute Activist – sign up here: <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>



**January 2019
Bridge Winners**
Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Pat Seaman, Lida Kluzek
Second Monday: Mary Braley, Leela Viswanathan
Second Thursday: Darline Wilson, Sandra Savage
Second Friday: Darline Wilson, Sandy Bonnet
Third Friday: Leela Viswanathan, Sandy Bonnet
Fourth Tuesday: Darline Wilson

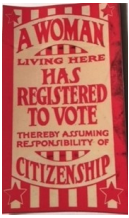


Marketing Outreach - A Collaboration by SJSU Student Agency with AAUW San Jose

Nancy Moreno, V.P. Membership and Branch Liaison with SJSU Student Agency

The Branch's collaboration with DBH Communications Agency, the student agency for Public Relations and Advertising internship work experience at San Jose State University, has yielded great public exposure for our Branch. The AAUW vision "Equity for All" is highlighted in new branding and membership recruitment materials. This vision was on full display at recent community events in which our Branch has participated. Materials developed include cards and button sets with upcoming event dates, an introduction to what our Branch does, flyers and press releases for events, signage for the booth at tabling events, and (popular with our younger members) AAUW stickers for your laptop or water bottle. This joint learning experience has helped to develop new skills and relationships as we broaden the awareness of AAUW.

A big thank you to Professor Christine DiSalvo, who included AAUW in the Agency's client list for this school year. The students presented their project status to the Board in December and will focus this semester on helping update the website and continue to help with event flyers and press releases. Additional thanks to AAUW members who have guided or worked with the students in their respective areas including Monika Ryser, Linda Guyer, Sonia Wright, Alyce Athanasiou, Virginia Beck, Edna Robison, Elin Bolt, and Linda Snashall. This project amplifies the beauty of an intergenerational collaboration.



Update on 100 Years of Suffrage Celebration

Sharon Bouska

The [Woman's Equality 2020 Leadership Council](#) met in Morgan Hill in January, and six members of our Branch attended. At this meeting, four task force workgroups were presented: Census, Voter Engagement, Youth Empowerment, and Centennial Celebration. If you are interested in being on the ground floor with these working committees, contact 408- 299-5152 for workgroup details, or contact Sharon Bouska. The community is asked to get involved.

The third Council meeting is March 13 at Evergreen College. I encourage you to join me; we will meet at Headquarters at 3:30 to carpool. We can then enjoy a light supper afterwards. Please feel free to contact me for more information.



Gifts for Teens Partners with the Pajama Program

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

The Bay Area Chapter of the Pajama Program held a Benefit Gala program at the end of last year, raising over \$14,000 for their program and some members of the Gifts for Teens joined in.

Through the Pajama Program's generosity, over 700 pair of pajamas were donated to our holiday gift bags. Along with our own purchases, every teen bag in 2018 had a pair of cozy pajamas. Gifts for Teens looks forward to future opportunities to partner with this local non-profit whose motto is "Good Nights are Good Days."

With 354 volunteer workers and 225 donors this past year, our mission was again successful, but only due to the continued support and generous contributors from the community. Ninety-nine percent of all donated funds are used directly to benefit the teenagers. We thank you for your continued support.

Health Kits for Santa Maria Urban Ministry

Bobbie Baker, Neighbors Helping Neighbors



At the February Neighbors Helping Neighbors meeting, 50 hygiene kits containing various personal items including toothbrushes, soap, and socks were packed for Santa Maria Urban Ministry. In addition, ten new sleeping bags and several bags of warm clothing items have been delivered to Santa Maria. This month, NHN will be serving another hot lunch for the homeless women at Lifted Spirits. We delivered 120 sack lunches for their Front Door Community project. We are also planning to pack 20 survival back packs for Sacred Heart next month. All these activities are only possible due to the generous support of AAUW members. Thanks to everyone!

In Her Own Words

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

If you have any doubt that your donations to Local Scholarship are important, rest assured that they are. Please read the following from one of our recipients.

"I graduated from the nursing program at San Jose State and am currently working full time as a RN at the Morgan Hill Rehab Center and part time as a case manager at a Kaiser Hospital. I send my thanks to you due to all your help. Actually, I could not go this far without your support! Receiving this scholarship has greatly reduced the financial burden of my family and given me peace of mind to pursue my educational dream."

Applications for 2019 Local Scholarship awards are available on our Branch website as of March 1, www.aauwsanjose.org, or at www.Fastweb.com and are accepted through April 15, 2019. Please encourage friends and family members who meet the eligibility requirements to apply. Any questions should be directed to Margaret Bard.



College–University Partners and Student Organizations

Alyce Athanasiou, Chair of College-University Relations Committee

As you know, there are three College-University partners associated with AAUW San Jose: Evergreen Valley College, San Jose State University and Santa Clara University. This month, I would like to highlight the student AAUW organization at Evergreen Valley College (EVC), which was formed in 2015 under the direction of Dr. Marjorie Clark, counselor at EVC. The College-University Relations Committee of our Branch formed a relationship with the students in Spring 2016 which continues today. Together, we organized and presented two Start Smart workshops; in March and August 2018. EVC signed a three-year Start Smart contract with AAUW, funded by the San Jose City Office of Women's Policy under the direction of Carla Collins, which entitles the college to give multiple workshops each year.

Another workshop is being held in March of this year. Dr. Clark and the student president, Charina Tengeson, have become facilitators for the Start Smart workshops, and there are plans for additional staff to receive training this semester. EVC is the only campus among our partner member colleges to have started training their staff to be Start Smart facilitators! Volunteer hours were provided in our Branch to expose the students to the various community services we provide and increase their awareness of what AAUW accomplishes. In addition, the College-University Relations Committee invited the student leaders to the Santa Clara County Council on the Status of Women dinner last August so they could see there are many women of accomplishment in our county.

San Jose Evergreen Community College District recognized the work Geri Madden and I had done to bring Start Smart to San Jose City College and EVC, and we were given certificates of appreciation in October 2018! If you want to work on our committee and have the opportunity to be with young, enthusiastic and accomplished college women, contact me at aliki50@yahoo.com. The students greatly appreciate what you do for them.



Wildflower Run in Morgan Hill Sunday March 31 - 9 am – 12 pm

The annual Wildflower Run has been funding scholarships and programs supporting equity and education for women and girls for 36 years. Sponsored by AAUW

Morgan Hill, it starts at Live Oak High School in Morgan Hill at 9 am on Sunday, March 31. The Run is expected to sell out this year, so [register](#) early. AAUW members get at \$5 discount with the code "gofaraauw." Contact [Jean Reed](#) to carpool with AAUW Weekend Walkers. Course details are available at the [Wildflower Run website](#).

In Memoriam - Sharon Burkett

The BONFIRE staff lost one of our own members recently. Sharon Burkett passed away on January 20 at her sister's home in Texas. She was a fighter and a proud 12-year survivor of pancreatic cancer. Sharon was a scientist, artist, and a great nature photographer. She was an adventurous traveler and a creative cook. After retiring, she worked as a docent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and at Elkhorn Slough, and belonged to several hiking and art groups.



Sharon joined AAUW in 2012. She was active in Tech Excellence and supported Tech Trek. She was the BONFIRE layout editor for two years and continued to serve as a backup resource to the BONFIRE staff. The last AAUW event she attended was the November Open House to which she brought a new member. Her enthusiasm for life and wonderful smile will be missed. The family plans a memorial for Sharon in May. For details, contact Jean Reed.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday April 17 at 7 pm.

Join us for a presentation by member Elizabeth Guimarin entitled Earth Day: Health Check-up for the Earth. Details to follow in the April BONFIRE.

AAUW San Jose Branch BONFIRE

March 2019 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all meeting 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 Mar 4 | 9:30am-12:30pm | Bridge (RSVP Pat Mikolic) |
| | 6:30-8pm | Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Bobbie Baker) |
| Tue Mar 5 | 10am-12pm | German Conversation (RSVP Barbara Snyder) |
| | 7-8:30pm | Public Policy Monthly Meeting (Peg Carlson-Bowen) |
| Wed Mar 6 | 7-8:30pm | AAUW BOARD Meeting (Virginia Beck) |
| Thu Mar 7 | 1-3pm | Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney) |
| Fri Mar 8 | 10am-2pm | Duplicate Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek) |
| Sat Mar 9 | 6:30-9:30pm | Couples Gourmet (RSVP Margaret Bard) |
| Sun Mar 10 | TBD. | Film Fans (RSVP Linda Snashall) |
| Mon Mar 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 Mar 12 | 10-11:30am | Book Discussion <i>Enemy Women</i> by Paulette Jiles (Terry McBride) |
| | 10-11:30am | Conversacion Espanol (RSVP Barbara Snyder) |
| Wed Mar 13 | 10am-3pm. | Art Appreciation de Young Museum Gauguin: A Spiritual Journey (Jan Bartolotta) |
| | 6-7pm | Title IX Sports Equity (Laura Manthey) |
| | 7-8:30pm | Evening Book Discussion <i>Love and Other Consolation Prizes</i> by Jamie Ford (Laura Manthey) |
| Thu Mar 14 | 9:30-11am | Great Decisions AM (Mary Ann Carnavale) |
| | 7:15-10pm | Bridge (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman) |
| Fri Mar 15 | 10am-1pm | Bridge (RSVP Lida Kluzek) |
| Mon Mar 18 | 9:30-11am | Exploring World Literature <i>I am Malala</i> by Malala Yousafzai (Diana Taylor) |
| | 6:30-9pm | International Gourmet (Ireland - Grace O'Leary) |
| Tue Mar 19 | 10-11:45am | French Conversation (RSVP Barbara Snyder) |
| | 1-3pm | Knitting Know How (RSVP Margaret McCartney) |
| Wed Mar 20 | 7-8:30pm | 3 rd Wed Program: Historic Bay Area Visionaries (Jean Reed) |
| Thu Mar 21 | 10am-12pm | Family History (Susan Brundage) |
| | 7-8:30pm | Mystery Lovers (To Die but Once by Jacquelin Winspear (Sharon Shephard)) |
| Fri Mar 22 | 1-3pm | Local Scholarship (Margaret Bard) |
| Mon Mar 25 | 9:30-11am | Building and Properties Committee (Linda Goldberg) |
| | 11:30am-12:30pm | Gourmet Vegetarian (Jean Wyatt) |
| Tue Mar 26 | 11:30am-2pm | Lunch Bunch at Rosie McCann's (RSVP Diana Taylor) |
| | 7-8:30pm | Great Decisions Evening Group (Karelle Cornwell / Angie Ho) |
| | 7:15-10pm | Bridge (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman) |
| Thu Mar 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) |
| Sat Mar 30. | 10am-12:00pm | Open House (Membership Jan Bartolotta) |
| Sun Mar 31 | 9am-12pm | Wildflower Run (AAUW Morgan Hill RSVP to carpool Jean Reed) |

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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*



**AAUW San Jose Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 13, 2019, 11:30 – 1:30**

Join us again at the beautiful San Jose Country Club for our annual meeting.

This is a “not to be missed” event to

- Thank your outgoing Board of Directors
- Meet and elect your incoming Board of Directors
- Visit with friends and make new ones
- Welcome new members

**And hear Carol Stephenson, Community Advocate,
Sacred Heart Community Service.**