

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE



Empowering Women Since 1881

AAUW SAN JOSE ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

Election and Installation of 2019-2020 Officers

Saturday, April 13

11:30 am – 2 pm

San Jose Country Club

15571 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose 95127

Enjoy seeing old friends and welcoming new members.

Celebrate your 2019-2020 slate of officers and thank your 2018-2019 officers.

We are looking forward to hearing guest speaker Carol Stephenson, Community Advocate, Sacred Heart Community Service. Carol says, "Immigration has been a controversial topic on a national scale, but how does it affect us? Stripping away the hyperbole and posturing, what is the real picture of our community?"

Menu

Romaine with Fruit Salad

Rolls and Butter

Entree Choices:

Artichoke and Parmesan-Filled Chicken Breast with Creamy Supreme Sauce

Roast Salmon, Lemon Beurre Blanc with Capers

Both Served with Wild Rice Blend and Rainbow Carrots and Broccolini

Vegetarian Penne Pasta Marinara served with Rainbow Carrots and Broccolini

Lemon Bars with Fresh Berries

Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea and Lemonade

Please send your check for \$40.00, which includes tax and tip, to Risë Berry, 460 Golfview Drive, San Jose, CA 95127, **no later than April 9**. Make your check out to AAUW-SJ and indicate your entrée choice in the memo line. Parking is somewhat limited, so please carpool if possible. For your convenience, use the main entrance.

**"To advance gender equity for women and girls
through research, education, and advocacy."**



President's Corner

April 2019

President Virginia Beck

Women Making a Difference, Individually and Collectively

Virginia Kay Beck, President

This year, it is my pleasure to recognize AAUW San Jose members who are making a difference in our Branch and in the greater community. This month I want to encourage you to attend the Annual Spring Luncheon on April 13 (details on the front page). This is an opportunity to recognize and thank the women who have stepped up this year and added Branch leadership to their busy lives. I have worked with them now since July 1, 2018 and know the extra hours and effort they are putting in to serve the AAUW Mission of gender equity for women and girls. April 13 will also be an opportunity to celebrate the women who are stepping forward into Branch leadership in the 2019-2020 year. They all are great role models for us, our daughters, our granddaughters and women in the community. See you on April 13.

AAUW San Jose, Women Making A Difference.

Board Matters

At the March 6, 2019 Board Meeting, Pam Dougherty gave a presentation on the proposed remodel of the kitchen at Headquarters. The general contractor was also present with drawings and samples of materials. Questions regarding these plans should be directed to Pam.

Linda Goldberg, Chair of the Building and Properties Committee, recommended an update to the bathroom at Headquarters. The hope is to have this project done at the same time as the kitchen and using the same type of materials. Questions regarding the update proposal should be directed to Linda. The Board will vote on the kitchen and bathroom remodel proposals at the April board meeting.

The Nominating Committee announced its slate of candidates for the 2019-2020 Board. The nominees will be voted on at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on April 13, 2019.

It is with great pleasure that the Nominating Committee of 2019 presents the following slate of candidates for the 2019-2020 year:

President-Elect: Peg Carlson-Bowen

With a great commitment to the mission of AAUW, Peg will serve two years as President, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Her working experience as a program/project manager has prepared her to lead us into new and exciting territory. She has served the Branch as the leader of an active Public Policy Committee and is appreciative of all the Community Action Projects and Interest Groups that also work to support the mission. She looks forward to working with the entire Branch.

Secretary: Monika Ryser

Monika Ryser will serve as Secretary to the Board of Directors. She graduated from the Swiss College of Textiles with a degree in Textile Design. Monika met her husband in middle school when they were both in the band. Today they perform locally in a British-style band; Monika is a harpist. As the mother of two

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children with one in college and one ready for college, Monika is busy. She works as an accountant and is active on the Public Policy Committee.

Program Vice President: Sari Fitzwater

Sari has agreed to move from the AAUW Fund VP position to Program VP. She continues to develop new areas of education with the Financially Fit For Life Community Action Project.

Membership Co-Vice Presidents: Sarah Janigian and Leticia Cowan

Sarah Janigian is rejoining the Board as Membership VP. She previously served as the Board's Secretary. Sarah received her degree from San Jose State University and currently works as a non-profit fundraiser and developer.

Leticia Cowan holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Southern Oregon University. She has worked in industry as an Operations Manager at the San Francisco International Airport and later at California State-Monterey Bay. She co-founded (with her husband in 1998) a Solar Energy research and development company while also writing for the Society of Optical Engineers - all while being a full-time wife and, later, a proud mother.

Continuing Membership Co-Vice Presidents: Nancy Moreno and Anna Fox

AAUW Fund Vice President: Sonia Wright

Sonia has spent 20+ years as a Public Relations director for both private and public organizations, then switched careers 14 years ago into fundraising. Most of her career has been spent in higher education, the last four years at San Jose State University. She has a Bachelor's in Journalism, a Master's in Educational Policy and Management, and two certifications: Certified Fund Raising Executive and Certified Specialist in Planned Giving. Why did she accept this position? First, the right person asked and she couldn't say "no." Second, she believes in AAUW's mission wholeheartedly and feels it takes lots of volunteers to make it happen. Third, she has 34 years of AAUW experience in four different branches.

AAUW LAF Vice President: Louise Persson

Louise will be returning to one of her passions: Legal Advocacy Fund, the largest fund in the United States that supports women who challenge discrimination in workplaces or schools. Louise has a Bachelor's in Speech Pathology and a Master's in Special Education from the University of New Mexico. Her focus as a teacher and administrator was always on the least-advantaged populations of students, and her goal was to narrow the achievement gap. She's been a Branch member for 10 years and have served as Program VP and LAF VP, as well as on the state Funds Committee and the National LAF Committee.

Building and Properties Committee*: Joann Moritz and Sandee Plymire

Joann Moritz is a retired property manager and real estate salesperson. Joann is a Midwestern native, but has spent many years in San Jose. She graduated from San Jose State University and is the mother of one daughter. One of the joys of Joann's life is her granddaughter, who works in the field of art history. They share this passion. Joann is active in Art Appreciation, and is looking forward to learning more about our house.

Sandee Plymire is a San Jose native who graduated from San Jose State University. Before she retired, Sandee was an elementary school teacher. In addition to being a substitute teacher, Sandee enjoys gardening and seeing movies. She is also a private consultant for interior design. Within our Branch, Sandee originated Game Night several years ago. She is also active in Light Gourmet and International Gourmet.

Continuing Building and Properties Members: Pam Dougherty, Judy Burt, Mary Ann Carnevale, Shirley Karabian and Katherine Linnermann

Continuing Finance Officer – Suzanne Doty

Continuing Treasurer – Barb Purdy

*Please note there is one more opening on the Building and Properties Committee. If you are interested in serving, please contact Bobbie Baker.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Mary Jane Vitkovich, Co-Chair

"What is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time." -- Dorothy Day, Women's Rights Activist

Neighbors Helping Neighbors continues to support our local community one step at a time. Under the leadership of Karelle Cornwell and Peggy Maibaum, we served 40 homeless women a warm lunch through the "Lifted Spirits" program in downtown San Jose. Janice Robbins led our group at our monthly meeting in March as we assembled 20 survival sacks for the Sacred Heart Community Service's homeless program.

During April and May, we will be collecting new leggings for survivors of sexual assault and donating to The Grateful Garment Project (TGGP). The project goal is to collect 10,000 pairs of new leggings, all sizes. Why leggings? According to TGGP Executive Director Lisa Blanchard, leggings are the most requested but least donated articles of clothing. Look for the Grateful Garment Project collection box in the entry hall of Branch Headquarters.

Save the Date

Wednesday, May 15

7:00 – 8:30 pm

AAUW Headquarters

Join us to learn more about making the most of your charitable giving. Included is the difference between Donor Advised Funds and IRA Qualified Distribution, evaluating charities' overhead, and making charitable donations on line.

Imagine an America Without a Pay Gap

It is common knowledge that a woman in the United States makes 80 cents per dollar made by a man of similar qualifications. The pay gap is worse for women of color. In an era when women make up nearly 50% of the workforce, this pay gap burdens individual family finances and the economy. A recent study estimated the impact on society if the pay gap was corrected.

How would closing the pay gap be expected to impact families?

- 60% of working women and 66% single working mothers would see an increase in their pay
- Poverty rates for working women would drop by half from 8% to 3.8%
- Poverty rates for single working mothers would drop from 28.9% to 14.5%

How would the US economy benefit?

- Closing the pay gap would increase gross domestic product an estimated \$500 million, roughly 2.6% of the GDP of our entire nation
- The increase in women's earnings would be roughly 16 times what federal and state governments spent in 2015 for temporary assistance to needy families

The pay gap adversely impacts American families. Closing it would raise many out of poverty and reduce the need for public assistance. The question to ask our elected officials is not whether we as a society can afford to pay men and women the same income for the same work. The question is, how can we afford not to?

Authored by Archana Maniar, AAUW-CA Public Policy Source: The Impact of Equal Pay on Poverty and the Economy 2017, Institute of Women's Policy Research

**Third Wednesday Program
April 17
7 pm to 8:30 pm
Health Check-Up for Earth**



Each year, Earth Day, April 22, marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. A bi-partisan group tapped the emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution and forced environmental protection onto the national political agenda. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

Today the focus has moved to global warming. In fact, Earth Day is the largest secular observance in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year, and a day of action that changes human behavior and provokes policy changes. Branch Member Elizabeth Guimarin will share actions that we can use as we celebrate Earth Day locally.

Global warming tells us we need to pay more attention to the health of our Earth. We will look at key cycles of the Earth, the influence on land and ocean, and its connection to our food and health. The program will also show how, if we are regenerating the health of the Earth, then the land, food, and human health are all improved, too. It's time we think about what we can do to keep our Earth healthy. So, let's do a Health Check-up for Earth!

**AAUW-CA Members Help Shape
Public Policy Priorities for 2019-2021
Peg Carlson-Bowen,
Public Policy Committee Co-Chair**

Many members all over California participated in the review and revision of our state Public Policy Priorities that were in place for 2017-2019. We were so pleased that 526 members completed the survey and provided almost 200 comments and suggestions. Many members indicated that they liked the priorities as they were. Input from the members made a significant impact on the final document that the state Public Policy Committee has proposed. Each committee member reviewed the survey results, reading every item from members.

The newly proposed priorities are in the winter issue of the [California Perspective](#) and are posted on the [AAUW-CA website](#). In April and May, AAUW-CA members will vote on the Public Policy Priorities for 2019-2021. If approved, the Priorities go into effect July 2019.

Again, thanks to members who shared their thoughts on our current priorities and contributed to our new priorities for the coming two years.



**February 2019 Bridge Winners
Bobbie Eckerman**

First Monday: Pat Mikolic, Bobbie Eckerman
Second Monday: Mary Braley, Judy Kumagai
Second Thursday: Patty Baggesse, Virginia Beck
Second Friday: Darline Wilson, Lida Kluzek
Third Friday: Judy Kumagai, Pat Seaman
Fourth Tuesday: Patty Baggesse, Francine Hileman

New Member Profiles

Claire Campodonico

DR. DONNA MENDOZA studied at UC Berkeley, earning a BA in 1969. She continued her education at UC Santa Barbara, earning a PhD in 1979. Now retired, her profession was as a college professor as well as an actor. She first learned of AAUW at the recent Women's March.

ADELINE LAURINO is a student and Administrative Assistant at SJSU. She expects to graduate in 2021. Her goal is to become better informed on politics and policy. She discovered AAUW at the recent Women's March.

MICHELLE WOLF-BLOOM is a Clinical Psychologist. She received a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. She looks forward to joining political discussions with other Branch members.

ANA HERMOSILLO is a student at an accredited on-line college, Walden University, based in Minnesota. She expects to graduate in 2020 with her PhD. She is a resident of Gilroy and is employed as a Student/Intake Coordinator Clinician.

MARILY FELDHAUS earned her BA from Grinnell College in Iowa and her Master of Arts in Counseling from Webster University in Missouri. She has retired from her teaching profession in Special Education. She saw our Branch's booth at the recent Women's March and was greatly impressed.

ANGELA WINCH studied at the University of East London, England, where she earned her Registered Nurse education. She is currently a nursing instructor at De Anza College. She was referred by member Leticia Cowan.



Generous Grants and Donations Boost Gifts for Teens for 2019 Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens is very appreciative of the generosity of individual AAUW members, Bay Area philanthropic groups and the corporate world for donations received in 2018 and the start of 2019. Thank you to Delta Theta Tau Sorority, History Club of Los Gatos and Hitachi Vantara. And a special thank you to Diane Trombetta and the S.D. Trombetta Foundation for their continued support of our mission.

Our buyers are already searching and purchasing bargain items for the 2019 gift bags. Any cash donation, big or small, or in-kind items like fast food or store gift cards, are always gratefully accepted. Contact Elaine@gifts4teens.org for either type of donation or for more information.

Without action to close the pay gap, unequal pay will be a stark reality for women and families for the indeterminate future. That's a scenario that AAUW cannot accept.
Kim Churches, Chief Executive Officer

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April 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 Apr 1 9:30am-12:30pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Pat Mikolic](#))
7-8:30pm. **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** ([Bobbie Baker](#) / [Mary Jane Vitkovich](#))
- Tue Apr 2 10am-12pm **German Conversation** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
7-8:30pm **Public Policy Monthly Meeting** ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Wed Apr 3 7-8:30pm **AAUW BOARD Meeting** ([Virginia Beck](#))
- Thu Apr 4 1-3pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
7-8:30pm **Public Policy Committee** ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Mon Apr 8 10am-1pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Rosemary Busch](#))
1:30-2:30pm. **Financially Fit for Life** ([Leslie Larson](#))
6-9pm. **Light Gourmet** (RSVP [Cheryl Markman](#))
- Tue Apr 9 10-11:30am **Book Discussion** "The Other Einstein" by Marie Benedict ([TerryMcBride](#))
10am-11:30am. **Conversacion Espanol** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
- Wed Apr 10 10am-2pm **Art Appreciation** ([Charlotte Mackay](#))
6-7pm **Title IX Sports Equity** ([Laura Manthey](#))
7-8:30pm **Evening Book Discussion** Poetry of William Butler Yeats ([Laura Manthey](#))
- Thu Apr 11 9:30-11am **Great Decisions AM** ([Mary Ann Carnavale](#))
7:15-10pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Fri Apr 12 10am-2pm **Duplicate Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Sat Apr 13 11:30am-2pm **ANNUAL MEETING AT SAN JOSE COUNTRY CLUB**
6:30-9:30pm **Couples Gourmet** (RSVP [Margaret Bard](#))
- Sun Apr 14 TBD **Film Fans** (RSVP [Linda Snashall](#))
- Mon Apr 15 9:30am-11am **Exploring World Literature** ([Diana Taylor](#))
6:30-9pm **International Gourmet** Spanish ([Brenda Ladewig](#))
- Tue Apr 16 10am-11:45am **French Conversation** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
1-3pm **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
- Wed Apr 17 7-8:30pm **3rd Wed Program: Health Check-up for Earth** ([Jean Reed](#)) (see article)
- Thu Apr 18 10am-12pm **Family History** ([Susan Brundage](#))
7-8:30pm **Mystery Lovers** (Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz ([Sharon Shephard](#)))
- Fri Apr 19 10am-1pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Mon Apr 22 9:30am-11am **Building and Properties Committee** ([Linda Goldberg](#))
11:30am-12:30pm **Gourmet Vegetarian** ([Jean Wyatt](#))
- Tue Apr 23 11:30am-2pm **Lunch Bunch** (Meets at Blue Water Seafood ([Diana Taylor](#)))
7-8:30pm **Great Decisions Evening Group** ([Karelle Cornwell](#) / [Angie Ho](#))
7:15-10pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Thu Apr 25 9:30-11am **Great Decisions AM** ([Mary Ann Carnavale](#))
6:30-8:30pm **Game Night** (RSVP by Monday to Sandee Plymire (408) 280-5799)
- Fri Apr 26 1-3pm **Local Scholarship** ([Margaret Bard](#))

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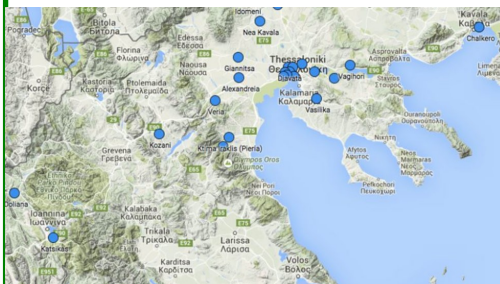
The sole purpose of this publication is to convey the association's business to its membership. Only articles and announcements related to Branch business will be considered for inclusion.

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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*

Puppies and Babies: Stories of Resilience Amid a Global Refugee Crisis



Saturday, May 11
10 am – 12 noon
Edenvale Branch Library



This is an opportunity to turn our focus away from the politically-charged tropes on immigration in the US to this very real issue world-wide. Member Dr. Tara Sood has worked with refugees in Bangladesh and Greece. She will share her experiences to build an understanding that displaced persons have the same hopes for their families that we do in our own community and how we can take actions toward change.