

San Jose Branch

BONFIRE**Empowering Women Since 1881**

Dr. Tara Sood at the Kutupalong Camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

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

Saturday, May 11

10 am to noon

Edenvale Library Community Room
101 Branham Lane East, San Jose

Come to hear individual stories of people forced to flee from home that will challenge your perspective of what a refugee is. Learn about the political and economic forces that created and sustained a global refugee crisis. This is an opportunity to turn our focus away from the politically charged tropes on immigration in the U.S. to the very real issue worldwide.

Speaker and Branch member Dr. Tara Sood is a Board Certified Emergency Physician. She attended Medical School at the University of Maryland and completed her Emergency Medicine training at NYU/Bellevue Hospital. She has worked with refugees in Bangladesh and Greece, and will share her experiences on building an understanding that displaced persons have the same hopes for their families that we do in our own community and how we can take action toward change.

Edenvale Library is 8 miles from Headquarters. There is ample parking and ADA access. Contact Jean Reed with questions.

[Viva Calle – Downtown & Eastbound](#)

Open Streets Event

Sunday, May 19 - 10 am to 3 pm

Katherine Linnemann of Weekend Walkers will coordinate a group to walk city streets that will be temporarily closed to allow communities to come together to walk, bike and play. This year's route goes out Story Road to Emma Prusch Park. Contact [Katherine](#) for details of where and when to meet.

"Begging for Leggings" Drive

Bobbie Baker, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Through May, our Begging for Leggings drive will continue. Please donate a new pair of leggings for the Grateful Garment Project. These leggings will be given to sexual assault victims throughout California.

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



President's Corner

May 2019

President Virginia Beck

Women Making a Difference, Individually and Collectively
Virginia Kay Beck

On April 6, I had the pleasure of representing AAUW San Jose at the AAUW CA Annual Meeting in San Diego. There were over 100 women from branches all over the state. In addition to a business meeting, we received information about branch giving to AAUW Fund and on membership and leadership. In addition, Julia Brown, AAUW National President, spoke. As always, when with AAUW women, I was inspired by their enthusiasm, dedication, leadership and thoughtful thinking and expression. For AAUW Fund in 2018, our Branch ranked THIRD in giving out of 130 branches in the state. We contributed almost \$28,000 out of \$480,000 that AAUW CA raised for AAUW Fund. Let's pat ourselves on the back for our generosity!!

As I sat and listened to the panels on membership and leadership, I was proud of the efforts of our Branch and felt we could have staffed both panels all by ourselves. As the largest Branch in California, and one of the top three in the nation, we are leaders in attracting, welcoming and integrating new members, programs emphasizing the mission, and providing leadership in serving the greater community through public policy action, Community Action Projects and initiatives such as Financially Fit for Life, College/University Partnerships, and Work Smart and Start Smart.

I am proud to say I am a member of AAUW San Jose, Women Making A Difference.

Board Matters

At the April 3, 2019 Board Meeting, the Finance Committee Chair made a motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$70,000 to remodel the kitchen at Headquarters. The vote passed unanimously. Then a second motion was made to approve up to \$20,000, from a mature CD, to cover unexpected construction costs for the kitchen upgrade. Again, it passed unanimously.

Additionally, a motion was made by the Finance Committee Chair to approve an expenditure of up to \$12,000 for the bathroom remodel at Headquarters. This motion also passed unanimously.

Linda Goldberg, Chair of the Building and Properties Committee, explained the construction plan. The demolition is planned to begin July 8, 2019. The remodel of the kitchen and bathroom will be simultaneous; it is advisable that meetings during this time be held elsewhere. Members will be able to enter Headquarters for other matters. The projected time for the remodels is six weeks.

Make the Most of Your Charitable Giving Wednesday, May 15 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Join us for an evening of information that will enable you to make the most of your charitable giving under the new tax law. You will hear from experts about your options and learn how to complete the necessary paperwork. Pat Diamond, CPA, owner of a small software company, and former Branch Finance Chair, will kick off the program. Included will be the difference between IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) and Donor Advised Funds and how each can affect the amount of tax paid.

Erik Hall, a Broker with Fidelity, will lead us through the procedures and documents needed to open an IRA QCD or Donor Advised Fund. Leslie Larson and Jean Boyden, members of Financially Fit for Life, will provide information on evaluating charities and determining what percentage of your donation will go to the charity's clients versus "management overhead." Kim Guptill, Grants Manager for the Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation and a member of our Branch, will be discussing how to wisely use the Internet for charitable giving. Please join us for an evening of useful information.



Board President Virginia Beck with President-Elect Peg Carlson-Bowen at the AAUW-SJ Annual Meeting.

2020 Suffrage Celebration Update Sharon Bouska

In Elaine Elinson's article "Soup, salad, suffrage: How women won their right to vote in California," she describes how the first attempt for women in California to win the vote in 1896 suffered a crushing defeat, especially in San Francisco. Very discouraged, the suffrage organizations did not meet again for another five years, and then the 1906 earthquake pushed their efforts back even further. To help reorganize a victorious campaign for enfranchisement, a middle class Jewish woman named Selina Solomons challenged the wealthy white Protestant women reformers as being too "clubby and elitist and fashionable." Selina opened the Votes for Women Club in a loft near Union Square (can you imagine the rent nowadays?). The club was decorated with yellow paper flowers and banners and was aimed at the shop girls and clerks. It provided nutritious dishes for a nickel each. Solomons believed that the "girl who came to eat, stays to read and talk." The club was stocked with suffrage movement literature. Lectures were given advocating votes for women. To help offset the club maintenance, she started a dues-paying Men's Auxiliary.

Solomons and the shop girls canvassed neighborhoods, especially South of Market, home of poor working people, mostly of German and Irish descent. As with middle class areas, the men opposed suffrage and the women supported it. In fact, in the final statewide tally, suffrage won by 2% - enough to change history.

Important questions for us as we begin to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment are: Who are today's "shop girls?" Who are the working women who are often unacknowledged and yet need to know that their work, their commitment to woman's democracy, is every bit as important and necessary as the women who are making policy? How can we invite these women to the table to "eat and read and talk" about matters that are important to them? Can we begin to see the "shop girls" as allies as Selina did? Can we hold "soup, salad and women's democracy" events throughout the county? I believe that if we plan it, they will come. And we all will be enriched.

AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION

VOTE 2019

Your voice and your vote are vital to AAUW's future. That's why it is so important to participate in the 2019 AAUW National Election to elect members to the board of directors and set AAUW's Public Policy Priorities. **Online voting is now open and will close on May 14 at 6:00 p.m. ET.** Your vote will determine the board leaders who will guide AAUW to achieve equity for women and girls in expanding the Work Smart salary negotiation program, supporting key legislation, and partnering with employers to implement fair-pay practices. This year, you'll also be voting on amendments to the 2019–21 Public Policy Priorities, providing the framework for the advocacy work AAUW does at the local, state and national levels. You can find more information about the [candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors](#) and the [2019–2021 Public Policy Priorities](#) on the AAUW website.



An Update on Michelle Boisvert, 2018 Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman,
Local Scholarship Committee

Michelle Boisvert received a scholarship from the Local Scholarship Committee in May 2018. From an early age, Michelle has been a caring person, especially for people with special needs. She graduated from Leland High School and attended UC Berkeley where she studied cell biology, with a special interest in breast cancer research focusing on gene therapy. She participated in the Scholars Project, working on the development of a drug to combat a protein that promotes breast cancer.

In June 2019, she will graduate from UC Berkeley with a BS degree in Molecular and Cell Biology. She plans to attend Harvard University for her graduate studies, where she has been granted a fellowship which provides her with greater access to her laboratory studies.

Michelle says, "It's an exciting time in research and new therapies to halt the incidence of breast cancer." We can only wish her continuing best of luck. Congratulations, Michelle!

New Member Chat and Coffee AAUW San Jose Headquarters Saturday, May 18 10 am - 12 pm

At the Open House on March 30, we hosted seven prospective members. Thank you to all who invited new friends to join. It is exciting, as many have already started to engage as active members of AAUW! Highlights of a discussion about what inspired them to join included:

- Meeting new people and friends
- Book clubs, cooking and knitting groups, Great Decisions
- Inspired by others and advancing equity
- Support women in sports, Title IX awareness
- Historic connection and tools to take action and address pay gap
- Self-care to socialize and the gift to self to learn and grow
- Connect with new friends and grow out of comfort zone

Together we are helping the Branch to grow! Our next membership event is the New Member Chat on Saturday, May 18. This event is open to all members, with a focus on our newest members (those who have joined within the past year) who would like learn more about all that the Branch has to offer. Be a friend and bring a friend to share all that AAUW has to offer!

SJSU Student Agency Inspired by AAUW Internship

Nancy Moreno, Branch Liaison with SJSU Student Agency

“AAUW has taught me that collaboration, patience and dedication are keys to making an idea a reality,” said SJSU student Alexis Conway, as she reflected on her internship opportunity with AAUW this past school year. She is part of the San Jose State University’s Dwight Bennett Hall (DBH) Public Relations and Advertising Agency team that joined forces with AAUW San Jose to update its publicity materials and increase visibility to a new generation of women.



The AAUW and SJSU collaboration was led by Nancy Moreno and Sonia Wright, with SJSU Public Relations Professor Christine Di Salvo. They worked with five young women to come up with innovative ways to get the AAUW message to a larger audience and produced promotional items for AAUW. Through templates and guides, all designs and promotion plans created this year will be available for future teams to use as a guide. A strong foundation has been built with the DBH Agency, and through this collaboration, a new generation of women will continue to be involved with the organization.

SEVEN KEY LAWS
WERE IDENTIFIED
THAT COLLECTIVELY
REPRESENT HOW
POLICY CAN SERVE
AS A TOOL TO WORK
TOWARDS EQUITY.

The Status of Women and Girls in California in 2019

Peg Carlson-Bowen, Public Policy Committee

For the past eight years, Mount St. Mary’s University in Los Angeles has published a report assessing the status of women and girls in the state of California. I would encourage members to review the findings of the full report: [Mount St Mary's 2019 Status Report](#) – they may surprise you.

We often hear discouraging news about women’s rights being undermined, but there is good work going on as well. Below are some of the bills cited in the report that passed during the last legislative session and were significant in making strides toward greater equity for California’s women and girls:

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Mandates a baseline representation of female identified persons on the board of directors of each publicly held corporation whose principal executive offices are in California. (SENATE BILL 826, JACKSON)
- **DISCLOSURE OF SALARY HISTORY:** Prohibits employers from seeking salary history information and making a subsequent salary determination for applicants, thereby improving pay equity. (ASSEMBLY BILL 168, EGGMAN)
- **LACTATION ACCOMMODATION:** Requires employers to designate an area close to the workspace — excluding bathrooms — for employees who wish to express breast milk. (ASSEMBLY BILL 1976, LIMÓN)
- **FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS’ RESTROOMS:** Requires public schools serving students in grades six to 12 that meet the 40 percent pupil poverty threshold required to operate a federal Title I school wide program to always stock at least 50 percent of the school’s restrooms with no-cost feminine hygiene products. (ASSEMBLY BILL 10, GARCIA)

New Member Profiles

Claire Campodonico

TRACEY EDWARDS earned a BA in Biological Sciences from UC Santa Barbara. From Golden Gate University, she received her Master's in Taxation. She worked as a consultant at Deloitte and resides in Cupertino. Member Peg Carlson-Bowen referred her.

JULINDA CALDWELL LeDEE graduated from SJSU with a BA in Sociology and a minor in African American Studies. Her Masters is in Public Administration from USF. She is an Academic Service Analyst at San Jose City College. She was referred by member Peg Carlson-Bowen.



May 1

Hosted by AAUW Los Gatos-Saratoga
6:30 Networking, 7:30 Program
Immanuel Lutheran Church
14103 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga

Why did Silicon Valley come into being? The story goes back to local amateur radio operators trying to break RCA's tube patents, "angel" investors, the sinking of the Titanic, Fred Terman and Stanford University, local invention of high-power tubes, WW II and radar, William Shockley's mother living in Palo Alto, and the SF Bay Area infrastructure that developed. Paul Wesling, an IEEE Life Fellow and Distinguished Lecturer, has observed the Valley for decades as an engineer, executive, resident, and educator, and has presented this talk worldwide. The lecture is open to the public. [Register online](#) or call 408-867-6237.



March 2019
Bridge Winners
Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Bobbie Eckerman, Mary Braley
Second Monday: Leela Viswanathan,
Lida Kluzek
Second Thursday: Patty Baggese, Judy Hart
Second Friday: Bobbie Eckerman,
Jean Benedetti, Sandy Bonnet
Third Friday: Lida Kluzek, Peggy Maibaum
Fourth Tuesday: Judy Hart



Spring Into Action
Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

Spring is in the air and bargain shopping is on the minds of the Gifts for Teens buyers. Purchases of gloves, cozy socks, underwear, blankets and slippers have already begun. It may only be May, but filling 1,200 holiday gift bags is a yearlong process. As always, Gifts for Teens is most appreciative of any donation to help us in our mission as a Community Action Project. Whether it's a monetary donation, supporting Gifts for Teens with your annual AAUW San Jose Branch dues or donating in-kind items like fast food or store gift cards, it all goes to help advance low-income teenagers toward becoming self-sufficient and emotionally healthy adults. Just knowing someone cares enough is a boost to anyone's morale! In-kind donations can be dropped off at Headquarters in the Gifts for Teens bin in the Parlor. For questions or monetary donations, contact Elaine@Gifts4teens.org or visit www.gifts4teens.org.

AAUW San Jose Branch BONFIRE

May 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](#) or [Kathy Linnemann](#).) 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](#).

- Wed May 1 6:30-7pm **AAUW Board Social**
7-8:30pm **AAUW Board Meeting** ([Virginia Beck](#))
- Thu May 2 1-3pm. **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
7-8:30pm **Public Policy Committee** ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Mon May 6 9:30am-12:30pm. **Bridge** (RSVP [Pat Mikolic](#))
6:30-8pm **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** ([Bobbie Baker](#))
- Tue May 7 10am-12pm. **German Conversation** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
7-8:30pm. **Public Policy Monthly Meeting** ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Wed May 8 10am-2pm. **Art Appreciation** de Young Museum. Monet: The Late Year's ([Nanci Eksterowicz](#))
7-8:30pm. **Evening Book Discussion** Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah ([Laura Manthey](#))
- Thu May 9 9am-5pm. **Scholarship Interviews**
9:30-11am. **Great Decisions AM** ([Mary Ann Carnavale](#))
7:15-10pm. **Bridge** (RSVP [Bobbie Eckerman](#))
- Fri May 10 9am-5pm **Scholarship Interviews** Local Scholarship ([Grace O'Leary](#))
10am-2pm. **Duplicate Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Sat May 11 10am-12pm. **AAUW Event** (Puppies and Babies: Stories of Resilience Amid a Global Refugee Crisis. by Dr. Tara Sood. Edenvale Branch Library ([Jean Reed](#)))
9am-5pm. **Scholarship Interviews** Local Scholarship ([Grace O'Leary](#))
6:30-9:30pm. **Couples Gourmet** (RSVP [Margaret Bard](#))
- Sun May 12 TBD **Film Fans** (RSVP [Linda Snashall](#))
- Mon May 13 10am-1pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Rosemary Busch](#))
1:30-2:30pm. **Financially Fit for Life** ([Leslie Larson](#))
6-9pm. **Light Gourmet** (RSVP [Cheryl Markman](#))
- Tue May 14 10-11:30am **Book Discussion** It is All Relative by A. J. Jacobs ([Terry McBride](#))
10-11:30am. **Conversacion Espanol** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
- Wed May 15 7-8:30pm **3rd Wed Program: Make the Most of Your Charitable Giving** ([Sandra Savage](#)) (see article))
- Thu May 16 10am-12pm. **Family History** ([Susan Brundage](#))
7-8:30pm. **Mystery Lovers** (The McGlincy Killings in Campbell by Tobin Gilman
Tobin Gilman is expected to attend and speak to the group. ([Sharon Shephard](#)))
- Fri May 17 10am-1pm **Bridge** (RSVP [Lida Kluzek](#))
- Sat May 18 10am-12pm **New Member Chat** (Membership [Jan Barlotta](#))
- Sun May 19 10am-3pm **Villa Calle Walk** ([Katherine Linnemann](#))
- Mon May 20 9:30-11am. **Exploring World Literature** The Story of My Experiments With the Truth – Mahatma Gandhi ([Diane Taylor](#))
9:30-11am. **Building and Properties Committee** ([Linda Goldberg](#))
1:30-3pm. **InterBranch Special Project Foundation** ([Marilyn Jackson](#))
6:30-9pm. **International Gourmet** 2019/2020 Planning ([Jan Bartolotta](#))
- Tue May 21 10-11:45am **French Conversation** (RSVP [Barbara Snyder](#))
1-3pm. **Knitting Know How** (RSVP [Margaret McCartney](#))
7-8:30pm. **Public Policy Working Group** ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Wed May 22 8:30-10:30am **Public Policy Collaboration Meeting** ([Peg Carlson-Bowen](#))
- Thu May 23 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 May 24 1-3pm. **Local Scholarship** ([Margaret Bard](#))
- Mon May 27 11:30am-12:30pm **Gourmet Vegetarian** ([Jean Wyatt](#))
- Tue May 28 11:30am-2pm **Lunch Bunch** ([Diana Taylor](#))
7-8:30pm **Great Decisions Evening Group** ([Karelle Cornwell](#) / [Angie Ho](#))

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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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PERIODICALS
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AAUW San Jose Branch *Established 1909*



Save the Date

Neighbors Helping Neighbors June Soiree
June 3 - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

You are cordially invited to the social event of the year! Please come to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors June Soiree on Monday, June 3, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Appetizers, desserts, wine and other beverages will be served. A short presentation will be given by Christi Kelly from Family Supportive Housing. Donations of children's sunscreen (8 oz. or less) and full-size deodorant for men and women will be collected for this organization. Come and enjoy a summer evening with friends!



Empowering Women Since 1881

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