


San Jose Branch

**BONFIRE**

Empowering Women Since 1881

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
WOMEN'S EQUALITY 2020 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



KICKOFF TO THE  
100TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF  
WOMEN'S RIGHT  
TO VOTE

# March & Rally

**100th Anniversary  
One Year Kick-Off**

- Get on Your Soapbox
- Earn your Women's Suffrage Sash
- Honor the Past & Wear White
- Prepare for this Watershed Moment in Women's History

**Monday  
August 26, 2019**

10:30am • Kickoff  
11:00am • News Conference

Steps of the MLK Library  
150 E. San Fernando St. • San Jose

Parking  
44 South 4th St. • San Jose

1-408-678-1499 or OWP@ceo.sccgov.org

## Women's Equality 2020 Commission Kick-off Rally

Martin King Library, 150 E. San Fernando St.,  
SJ (corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando)  
Monday, August 26 -- 10 am

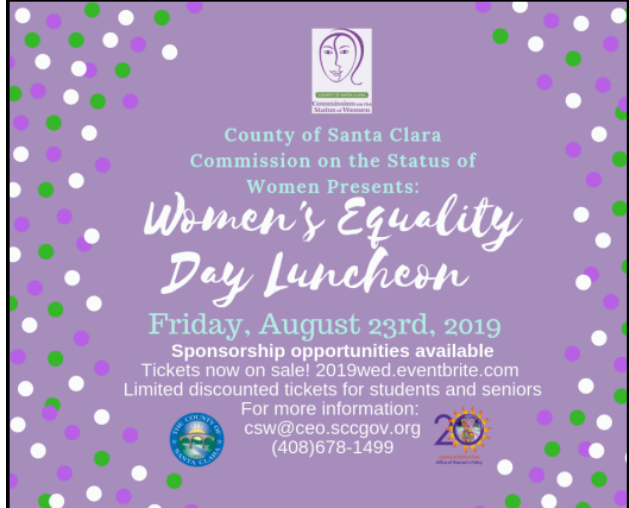
The Women's Equality 2020 Commission will host a rally to kick off a year of events, commemorations, and collaboration across the community. Attendees are asked to wear white (historical attire is welcome) in honor of those who fought for us. A press conference will be held at 11 am, which is the time we want to be present to show our support. Those who would like to make their own one-minute speech on a soap box (provided), as our sisters did long ago, will be given a sash! The San Antonio and Santa Clara light rail stations are only a couple of blocks away, and there is a parking garage across the street.

Contact [Sharon Bouska](#) for details.

Join the Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women's Annual Equality Day Celebration at the Mexican Heritage Plaza on Friday, August 23, 2019 at 11:30 am. This year's theme: "Spectacular at Every Stage." As we continue to stand up for Women's Equality, we also celebrate the 99th year since the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

Ticket price is \$75. There are also limited student (\$25) and senior (\$40) tickets available. There will be a delicious, environmentally-friendly lunch with our local leaders dedicated to advancing the needs of women and girls. Attendees and speakers always include fascinating women who inspire.

Please show your support in the fight toward equality by attending this event!



County of Santa Clara  
Commission on the Status of  
Women Presents:

## Women's Equality Day Luncheon

Friday, August 23rd, 2019

Sponsorship opportunities available  
Tickets now on sale! 2019wed.eventbrite.com  
Limited discounted tickets for students and seniors

For more information:  
csw@ceo.sccgov.org  
(408)678-1499

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

## President's Corner

Peg Carlson-Bowen

### The Power of a Single Question



As I begin my service to the Branch, what I mainly feel is gratitude. Thankful for Past President Virginia Beck's encouragement and mentorship (and her text at midnight on July 1 saying "Tag, you're it!"). Thankful for all our members who, with their contributions, time and advocacy, support equity for women and girls thus contributing to equity for all. Thankful for the solid history of action by women on whose shoulders we stand. Thankful for those who will serve this year as Board members, Committee or Community Action Chairs and volunteers to continue a battle for equity which, sadly, remains to be won.

I also appreciate that AAUW San Jose has so many interest groups to give us all respite from the fight, allow us to make new, sometimes lifelong friends, and to learn about the world. I have met so many amazing women, and our new members (over 40 this past year!) continue to impress me.

This year starts our recognition of women being given the right to vote, continuing through August of 2020. Past Co-President Sharon Bouska showed us what I call 'the power of a single question,' when she asked County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, "What should our county do for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment?" That single question led to a cross-cultural, cross-community group boosting voter engagement, involving young people in civic life, adding more volunteers so the 2020 Census counts everyone, and creating celebrations and events that recognize progress made and progress yet to come. Look for more news on this in the upcoming issues of the BONFIRE, our Facebook page and on our website. This will be an exciting time!



### Come for the Bubbles, Stay for the Budget!

Bobbie Baker, Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 pm

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) is hosting an evening of bubbly on Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 pm at Headquarters. Please join us for a half hour of bubbly conversation fueled by champagne, sparkling cider, sparkling water and light appetizers! Afterwards, we will review the NHN donations received for this year and vote on how to allocate these funds.

So, come for the bubbles and then stay for the budget! This meeting is a great way to learn what NHN is all about. And remember, as Coco Chanel said: "I only drink champagne on two occasions. When I am in love and when I am not."



## Save The Date – Friday, December 6

Gifts for Teens - December Gift Bag  
Assembly for AAUW members

[Jan Giroux](#)

Mark your calendars for Friday, December 6, 9 am -12 noon, and join fellow AAUW members for fun and a good cause. More information in later issues of the BONFIRE.



## “Train the Trainer” on implementing the Voter’s Choice Act

Santa Clara County Government Center  
70 W. Hedding St., SJ  
Saturday, September 7

Santa Clara County will implement the Voter's Choice Act in our upcoming elections. This brings a number of changes, including more convenience and flexibility for voters and new opportunities for poll workers. Would you like to learn how to present this information to other community groups? Join the Women's Equality 2020 Commission and the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters for a 'Train the Trainer' event the morning of Saturday, September 7 at the County Office Building. For more information, contact [Peg Carlson-Bowen](#).

## Third Wednesdays - Save the Dates

Jean Reed

Every month has a third Wednesday, and for the San Jose Branch of AAUW that means a talk, activity or event of interest for members. This is always an informative evening held from 7 - 8:30 pm at Headquarters. Please mark your calendar to attend these events:

September 18 - Rethinking Recycling

October 16 - Election Education: the new Voter's Choice Act

November 20 - Make a Gift For Teens

January 15 - Women's March Madness

February 19 - Reproductive Rights – and Threats

March 18 - Humane Society Services

April 15 - Financially Fit for Life

May 20 - Timely Topic of Interest

June 17 - SOGI – Part II (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity)

Consult the BONFIRE, Facebook and our website for up to date information prior to these events.

## Volunteer Opportunity: AAUW-San Jose BONFIRE

Peg Carlson-Bowen

We have a volunteer need, starting this fall, to join the team that produces our monthly newsletter, the BONFIRE. I did this job as a new member and found it to be a great way to learn about what was going on and how our Branch worked. Our current editor is moving on after a great run - many thanks, Anne!

Job Description: Solicit articles, send copy for proofing and President's review, distribute newsletter by email. Send final copy to printer. Post copy on website and archive old newsletters. Other members of the team do copy editing and layout. If interested, please email [Peg Carlson-Bowen](#), or talk with [Anne Wustrow](#), who has been doing this job so well.

## Videographer Needed for Fall Event

Marna Taylor,  
Local Scholarship Committee

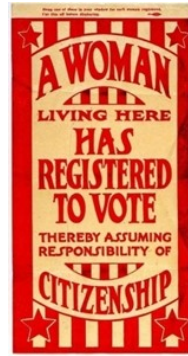


Do you know a videographer who might be able to videotape presentations on the morning of September 14? The Local Scholarship Committee is planning to videotape the presentations given by our amazing scholarship recipients, who will be speaking at Fall Event. We hope to use these videos on social media to promote scholarship availability, as well as show them to potential funders/partners interested in funding future scholarships.

If you are a videographer, or know of someone who would do a great job, please contact [Marna Taylor](mailto:Marna Taylor) (408-439-4614).

## 2020 Suffrage Celebration Update

Sharon Bouska



Did the 19th Amendment give ALL American women the right to vote?\*

The language of the 19th Amendment included all eligible voters *but not all eligible voters could exercise their right to vote*. First of all, the Constitution in 1920 mandated a minimum voting age of 21, so the 19th Amendment allowed for women 21 and over to vote. Then, although the 19th Amendment included women of color, many were unable to vote. In the southern United States, restrictive state or local laws called for poll taxes and/or literacy tests before a citizen could vote. Eighty percent of African Americans lived in the southern U.S. in 1920. As more African American women moved north, they were able to vote more freely. Full exercise of black voting rights was intended with the Voting Rights Act of 1965; however, even today some states continue to erect barriers to African-American voting. Native American women were largely excluded from voting before the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924; some states and localities still passed laws effectively barring Natives from voting until the late 1940s. Not until the late 1940s and 1950s were restrictions on Asian American voting removed.

Looking at the news today, we are reminded that there still is a fight for participatory democracy. This is why the centennial suffrage recognition in 2020 is so important!

\*Information provided by [Women's 2020 Vote Centennial Initiative](#).



### May 2019 Bridge Winners Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Michele Mork-Ovson, Pat Mikolic  
Second Monday: Rosemary Busch, Bobbie Eckerman  
Second Thursday: Virginia Beck, Patty Baggese  
Second Friday: Jean Kudlick, Darline Wilson  
Third Friday: Pat Seaman, Judy Kumagai  
Fourth Tuesday: Darline Wilson, Sandra Savage,  
Nancy Valby



### June 2019 Bridge Winners Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Pat Mikolic, Leela Viswanathan  
Second Monday: Leela Viswanathan, Judy Kumagai  
Second Thursday: Nancy Valby  
Second Friday: Joan Benedetti, Bobbie Eckerman,  
Sandy Bonnet  
Third Friday: Sandy Bonnet, Judy Kumagai  
Fourth Tuesday: Darline Wilson, Francine Hileman

**An Update on Patricia Rich,  
2018 Local Scholarship  
Recipient**

Cheryl Markman  
Local Scholarship Committee



Patricia (Tricia) Rich, a 2018 Local Scholarship recipient, recently graduated from CSU East Bay - congratulations, Tricia! She sent a letter to the Local Scholarship Committee. Seeing no way to improve upon what she wrote, here it is in Trisha's own words:

I just wanted to share some amazing news with you: I have officially graduated from CSU East Bay with my Bachelor of Arts in Human Development AND received an acceptance letter to USF Graduate School of Education! My commencement ceremony was Saturday. Since then, I have had a moment to reflect on all the people who've guided and supported me throughout my journey. Naturally, the AAUW community came to my mind. You all were there from the very beginning of my journey at CSU East Bay.

As a low income, first generation, working, transfer student, I had a lot to navigate and persevere through. It often seemed like the odds were against me. AAUW provided me with mental, emotional, and financial support that guided me through my journey. I just wanted to take a minute to extend my heartfelt gratitude for all that you do. I know the members of AAUW were definitely there in spirit at commencement, but attached are a few photos.

Warmest Regards,  
Tricia Rich



**Student Members Provide Testimony in Sacramento**

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

On July 2, our Public Policy Committee, including four student affiliate members from Evergreen Valley College, went to Sacramento to testify in support of SB 47, a bill which would promote voting centers on public college campuses in California. Charina B. Tengson, Alumni President of the EVC affiliate, veteran and single mother of four, was chosen as one of two student speakers to provide brief testimony in support of the bill. She informed the Senate Elections Committee members about the challenges to voting faced by students, especially non-traditional students. Her words were supported in "me too" statements from affiliate members Tiamatha Thomas, Alumni President of the Black Student Union, Van Anh Phan, Alumni President of the LGBTQIA+, and Samar Robleh, Alumni President of Associated Student Government at EVC, along with Susan Karlins, Public Policy Legislative Liaison on behalf of our 300+ Branch members. Afterwards photos were taken with San Jose Assemblyman Ash Kalra, sponsor of the bill.

**Coffee and Catch-Up**

Headquarters Parking Lot  
Saturday, August 10 - 9:30 - 11 am



Come share your summer adventures, meet other members and share a cup of Jo(sephine)! Headquarters will still be under construction, but we'll have coffee and snacks, chairs and shade, and a functioning restroom at the library next door. It always feels like we lose touch a bit in the summer -- stop by, even for a few minutes to say "hi" and get caffeinated and recharged for the year ahead!

**New Member Profiles**

Claire Campodonico

**ENASS ALI**, a native of Egypt, was referred by member Nancy Moreno. Enass attends JFK University (CA) while working on her Masters in Counseling Psychology. She is employed as a consultant at the Grateful Garment Project. She expects to graduate in 2022.

**JANICE BREMIS** has renewed her membership after a short lapse. She resides in Los Gatos, was educated at SJSU and is employed as an Executive at the Eating Disorders Research Center.

**DR. TYNKA DEES** graduated from Indiana University with a BA in Political Science. She next attended UC Davis where she earned her medical license. She recently retired from her practice of family medicine. Having been a prior member of our Branch, she is glad to rejoin and be more active.

**KATHY CORDOVA** graduated from SJSU with her BA. Now retired, her career was as Executive Director of Santa Maria Ministries, a non-profit in San Jose. She credits Sarah Janigian, Elaine Peterson and Virginia Beck with encouraging her to join our Branch.

**PAUL BOWEN** is our incoming President’s supportive husband. He earned his BS degree from USF and worked as a business analyst and program manager. He is now retired and is quite interested in helping our Branch on an ongoing basis.



**In Memoriam: Linda Hiebert Sekiguchi**



When Linda Hiebert Sekiguchi passed away May 15, the world lost an advocate for education and compassion for all, especially woman. Linda was known as a determined woman who stood up for those who had no voice and advocated for women’s issues. She was a dedicated member of AAUW and a generous benefactor to the organization. She was on the board of VGIF, which advocates for women’s education worldwide. Linda and her husband, Chris Sekiguchi, set up a large scholarship fund for women of the world to get a higher education in the United States. Even after she moved out of state, she continued to generously support AAUW San Jose.

**In Memoriam: Mary Lou Hajduk**

In July, we lost a long-time member of AAUW, Mary Lou Hajduk. Mary Lou spoke lovingly of her family, and enjoyed spending time with them. She was an active and knowledgeable participant in the “Great Decisions” and “Exploring World Literature” interest groups in our Branch. We will miss her very much.

# AAUW San Jose Branch BONFIRE

## August 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 Katherine 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](#).

- Mon, Aug 5 10 am-1 pm **Bridge First Monday** (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)
- Thu Aug 8 1-4 pm **Bridge 2nd Thursday** (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)  
7-8:30 pm **Public Policy Monthly Meeting: Potluck** (RSVP Elissa Stankiewicz)
- Fri Aug 9 10 am-2 pm **Duplicate Bridge** (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
- Sat Aug 10 9:30 am-11 am **Coffee and Check-In at AAUW Parking Lot** (Peg Carlson-Bowen)  
6:30-9:30 pm **Couples Gourmet** (RSVP Margaret Bard)
- Sun Aug 11 All day **Film Fans** (RSVP Linda Snashall)
- Mon Aug 12 6-9 pm **Light Gourmet** (RSVP Cheryl Markman)
- Tue Aug 12 10-11:30 am **Conversacion Espanol** (RSVP Barbara Snyder)  
Location: 1514 Hervey Lane, San Jose 95125
- Wed Aug 14 10 am-2 pm **Art Appreciation** (RSVP Jan Bartolotta) Early Rubins at Legion of Honor
- Fri Aug 16 10 am-1 pm **Bridge** (RSVP Lida Kluzek)
- Mon Aug 19 12-2 pm **International Gourmet: Ocean Delight** (Hostess Jan Bartolotta)
- Tue Aug 20 10-11:45 am **French Conversation** (RSVP Barbara Snyder)  
Location: Susan Hood's 761 Woodham Rd., Santa Clara, CA 95051
- Fri Aug 23 11:30 am SCCC Status of Women's Annual Equality Day (see article in issue on page 1)  
1-3 pm Local Scholarship (**RSVP Margaret Bard**) Location: Virginia Beck's home
- Mon Aug 26 9:30-11 am **Building and Properties Committee** (Pamela Dougherty)  
10 am 19th Amendment Centennial Kick-Off, Martin Luther King Library (see article in issue)  
11:30 am-12:30 pm **Gourmet Vegetarian** (Jean Wyatt)
- Tue Aug 27 11:30 am-2 pm **Lunch Bunch** (Diana Taylor)  
1-4 pm **Bridge 4th Tuesday** (RSVP Bobbie Eckerman)

### TIPS/REMINDERS/SAVE THESE DATES

- Mon Sept 10 6:30 pm NHN Bubbles & Budget meeting (Bobbie Baker)
- Sept Sept 14 9:30 am FALL EVENT, First Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave.
- Wed Sept 18 7 pm Third Wednesday Program: Rethinking Recycling
- Fri Dec 6 Time: TBA Gifts For Teens Gift Bag Assembly

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**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.

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**PERIODICALS**  
**POSTAGE PAID**

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

**AAUW SAN JOSE FALL GATHERING AND KICK-OFF**

**Saturday, September 14**

**9:30—11:30 am**

**First Congregational Church  
1980 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose  
(corner of Leigh and Hamilton)**

Meet the Tech Trek campers, Local Scholarship winners, one of our attendees to the National Conference of Collegiate Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) and hear Women's Equality Leadership Commission 2020 Leader Sharon Bouska enlighten us on the history (and future) of universal women's suffrage. She has the inside track on exciting events happening in Santa Clara County to recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Come and see your AAUW friends, meet new friends and peruse the Branch interest group and Community Action Project (CAP) tables, and see what the Board has planned for the upcoming year.



*Empowering Women Since 1881*



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