

San Jose Branch

**BONFIRE**



**Empowering Women Since 1881**

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

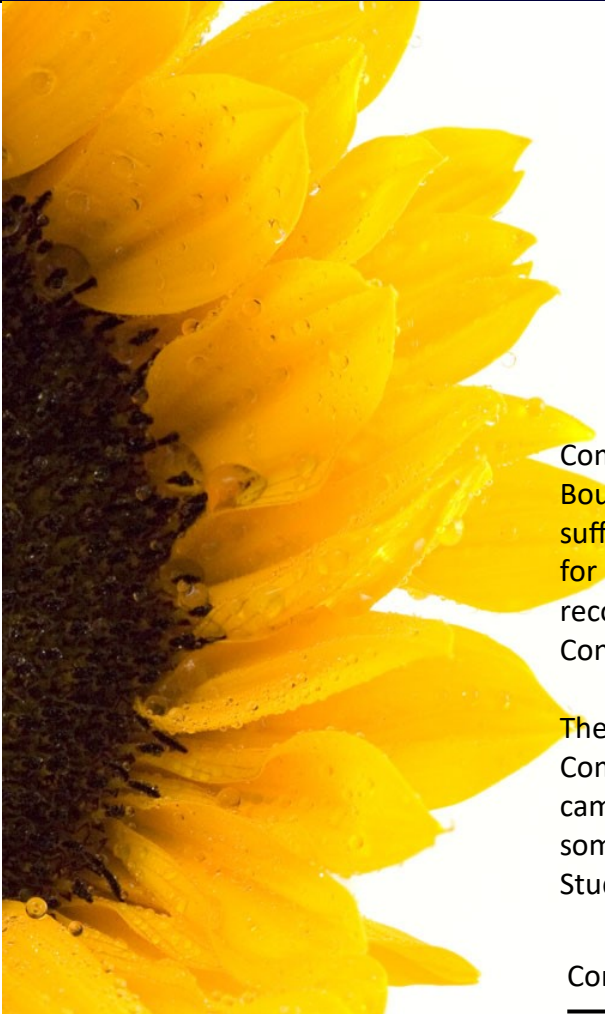
**Saturday, September 14**

**9:30 — 11:30 am**

**First Congregational Church**

**1980 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose**

**(corner of Leigh and Hamilton)**

A close-up photograph of a bright yellow flower, possibly a sunflower, with water droplets on its petals, positioned on the left side of the page.

Come hear Women's Equality Leadership Commission 2020 Leader Sharon Bouska enlighten us on the history (and future) of California women's suffrage. She has amazing stories of the women in our state who fought for our right to vote, and the inside track on this year's exciting events to recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The event is your chance to talk with the members from interest groups, Community Action Project teams, and to hear from the Tech Trek campers, and Local Scholarship winners. There will also be a talk from someone who attended the National Conference of Collegiate Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), an AAUW San Jose sponsored program.

Come connect with old friends and make new ones!

**Mark Your Calendar**

**2020 AAUW CA Convention Comes to Northern California**

**Remembering the Past, Rockin' the Future**

**April 17 - 19, 2020**

**The Westin San Francisco Airport**

**Program and registration information available in January**

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

## President's Corner

**Peg Carlson-Bowen**

**"Gathering"**



In the Fall of each year, AAUW San Jose members and friends get together for what we have called the 'Fall Event.' And every year someone says, 'Do we want to find a better name for this?'

I have always liked the sometimes-used name 'Fall Gathering,' as it seems to describe what happens there: we gather with old friends and new, bring together scholarship recipients and Tech Trek Campers to hear their inspiring stories, showcase all the interest groups and community projects, and gather our energies for our upcoming activities, events, projects and renewed friendships. So, I am calling this year's September 14<sup>th</sup> event the 'Fall Gathering.' (It seems that's one of the perks of being Prez that I can do!)

And what a year it will be—the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and the beginning of a year of recognition, celebration and learning about that aspirational change, and work with the Santa Clara County's Women's Equality Leadership Commission to celebrate and expand women's civic engagement over the coming year. To support the Commission, our own Sharon Bouska uncovered the amazing history of the women of California's battle to gain and hold on to the right to vote in California. There is much to learn here—inspiring stories not included in our history classes—even a few lessons and techniques we can use today. We have much to admire in the women who came before us, those on whose shoulders we stand. Come gather on September 14 and we'll discover it together!



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

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."



### You're Invited to a Brunch & Pajama Party

Jan Giroux, Gifts for Teens

Gifts for Teens, along with the Bay Area Chapter of the Pajama Program, is hosting a brunch and a pajama party benefitting the "Big Kids" which both of our organizations serve. Come join a delightful lunch with your friends and fellow AAUW members and support a worthy cause. Your ticket for admission is a new pair of pajamas, large sizes please. Your donation of pajamas will not only benefit the Pajama Program but also Gifts for Teens annual holiday gift bags. Monetary gift donations will also be accepted at the event. To sign up for this event, go to [www.facebook.com/PajamaProgramCA](http://www.facebook.com/PajamaProgramCA) and click on Going.

**Saturday, September 7 - 11 am to 2 pm**

**Fairbrae Swim & Racquet Club**

**696 Sheraton Drive, Sunnyvale**

**Support foster kids, homeless and low-income  
kids in San Jose.**

Questions, contact [Jan Giroux](mailto:Jan.Giroux@aauwsanjose.org).

### AAUW Ambassadors Needed

Sarah Janigian, Membership Committee

Join the Membership team as an AAUW Ambassador; that is, a person who can staff information tables at community events, open houses, and other activities at Headquarters. With AAUW's increased visibility in the community, our organization has been asked to join in many of these events. No experience is required. Willingness to staff information booths, talk about benefits of membership and represent AAUW at public and community events is all that is needed. If you are interested, please contact one of the Membership VPs: Leticia Cowan, Anna Fox, Sarah Janigian or Nancy Moreno, or send an email to [membership@aauwsanjose.org](mailto:membership@aauwsanjose.org).

### Third Wednesday Program

USElessPLASTIC: Rethinking Recycling  
Wednesday September 18 - 7 pm  
5 pm - pre-program showing of the  
2016 documentary "Plastic China"



Plastic sorting facility in San Jose

Did you know we are dumping a garbage truck's worth of plastic waste into our oceans every single minute? Added to that, our feeble recycling systems have finally broken, leading US states to pile up, landfill, or burn plastic "recyclables." But it doesn't have to be that way! Come to USElessPLASTIC, a fun, practical program that will show you how to make easy changes to phase out single-use plastic in your world. USElessPLASTIC examines the scope and reach of the single-use plastics crisis and examines what we can learn from the past, from other cultures, and from the zero waste movement.

This inspirational program will be presented by Rachelle Grabowski, a plastics educator and zero waste advocate. For additional background, join us beforehand at 5 pm to watch the 2016 documentary "Plastic China" by filmmaker [Jiu-liang Wang](http://www.jiuliangwang.com), which illustrates the lives of those who scrape by, sorting plastic waste. Bring a sack dinner – in a reusable container, of course! Contact [Jean Reed](mailto:Jean.Reed@aauwsanjose.org) with questions.



From the film "Plastic China"

### Tech Trek Camp 2019

Karelle Cornwell, Tech Trek



It was another fun and educational week at Tech Trek this summer. Thanks to the generous contributions from Branch members, we were able to send eight girls to Tech Trek at Stanford University for a one-week STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) camp. The girls were selected for their aptitude and interest in STEM subjects. They got a taste of college life by staying in the dorms, and got hands-on experience in various STEM topics including marine biology, forensics, cyber security, and engineering.

Here is what some of the campers had to say about camp:

"This has been such an amazing, meaningful and important experience for me to participate in."

"This camp is so important because it opened my eyes and made me actually believe that I can actually do whatever I want to do."

"This was my first camp ever and I had the best week of my life"

"I love this camp for incredible classes and people."

Be sure to attend the Branch's Fall Gathering on September 14, where you can hear the campers themselves tell about their experiences at Tech Trek.



### One Person/One Bill:

#### Public Policy Committee Supports AAUW Legislative Priorities

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee

This summer, the Branch's Public Policy Committee decided to build on a few of AAUW CA's legislative priorities by supporting them ourselves. A small group of us each picked one or two bills from the long list of those supported by AAUW CA, something that mattered to each of us personally. After a brief training from Legislative Liaison Susan Karlins, we chose bills related to protecting workers who were sexually harassed (AB 749, AB 218), breastfeeding access in the workplace (SB 142), exempting feminine hygiene products from state tax (AB 31), and access to medication abortion on public university campuses (SB 24). We learned that, despite the complexity of the California legislative process, it wasn't so hard to choose a bill, contact the author's office, talk to the staff person shepherding the bill, write letters of support to committees considering the bill, and feel the satisfaction of being part of the solution.

If you'd like to participate in this process, please join us at 7 pm on the first Thursday of the month at Headquarters for a brief meeting and updates. For more information about Public Policy meetings, contact Committee Chair [Elissa Stankiewicz](#). If you'd like to participate in a small way in the legislative process, but can't make the meetings, contact [Susan Karlins](#).



### July 2019 Bridge Winners

Bobbie Eckerman

First Monday: Cancelled

Second Monday: Cancelled

Second Thursday: Virginia Beck, Jean Ann Luckhard

Second Friday: Leela Viswanathan, Bobbie  
Eckerman, Darline Wilson

Third Friday: Cancelled

Fourth Tuesday: Virginia Beck, Jean Ann Luckhard



### Our Leadership Scholarship Recipients Attend NCCWSL Conference

Alyce Athanasiou, Chair of College–University Relations Committee



Every May, AAUW sponsors the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland, where over 800 young women from across the nation gather for four days to hone

their leadership skills and prepare to shape their world. This year, our Branch sponsored Ashley Lopez and Victoria Huynh, two bright and accomplished young women. I will feature Ashley this month; Victoria will be featured next month.

Ashley Lopez is a senior at San Jose State University and is studying for her bachelor's degree in Sociology, with a minor in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. She has been working full-time for the last five years at St. Martin of Tours Elementary School as the school librarian and after-school assistant director, and carried an academic load of at least 12 units per semester. Working full-time has made it harder for her to join clubs on campus, but it has certainly taught her "the value of hard work." She wants to bring the program "Girls on the Run," which empowers young girls through conversation-based lessons and running, to the elementary school. SJSU offered her a one-month study abroad trip to Thailand in June 2018 to teach English to Myanmar refugees, and it showed her a different culture and the life of refugees.

At the NCCWSL Conference, Dr. Tererai Trent spoke about how to achieve your goals, and Ashley felt it empowered her to believe she could achieve her goal of being accepted into the Peace Corps upon graduation in December. The workshops on women's issues have motivated her to seek an internship this semester at a domestic violence shelter.

### An Update on Cosette Fitzgerald, 2018 and 2019 Local Scholarship Recipient

Cheryl Markman, Local Scholarship Committee

Cosette Fitzgerald was a Local Scholarship recipient in 2018 and again in 2019. She is majoring in accounting at Menlo College and has a Liberal Arts degree from West Valley College. She is already putting both of her academic pursuits to good use.

As a junior, Cosette has taken courses in accounting, accounting ethics, income tax, and finance. Last spring, to further her understanding of accounting, she participated in the Menlo College Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The coordinator was her income tax professor, and she had done so well in the class that her professor recommended her to join the program. On weekends from February to April, she filed and reviewed local taxpayers' tax returns for free. She says, "I loved it and plan to be part of it each spring until I graduate."

While maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Cosette has been working as a part-time writing tutor on campus. She says "I am proud to help my peers with their writing assignments and help them be more prepared for future assignments."

In March, Cosette attended Menlo College's Career Connect Day, where students meet companies looking for interns and hires. She had the opportunity to talk to employers from San Mateo County and from nonprofits such as the Center of Independent Living. Because of these contacts, she began to realize that there are many options for accounting careers. Since then she has become more interested in working with a nonprofit organization or a city government.

Cosette says "Thank you again for granting me this and last year's scholarships as I continue toward earning a BS in accounting." We congratulate Cosette on her accomplishments thus far, and doing so well in her studies while also giving of her time to help others.

***"There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers." — Susan B. Anthony***

### New Member Profiles

Claire Campodonico

MICHELE BERTOLONE was referred to our Branch by member Leticia Cowan. She earned her secondary teaching credential in social sciences from SJSU. She owns the communication consultancy firm The Bold Blue. She is also active in "Recharge to Act." Welcome, Michele!

Correction from August 2019 BONFIRE: Kathy Cordova is the current director of Santa Maria Urban Ministries. The BONFIRE staff regrets the error.

### Scholarship Recipient Contributes to Public Policy Committee Meetings with Anna Eschoo

Susan Karlins, Public Policy Committee



Alyssa Moreno, a 2019 Local Scholarship recipient and UC Berkeley senior, helped the Public Policy Committee by using her political science skills to prepare for our August meeting with Congresswoman Anna Eschoo. She researched her

committee assignments and upcoming bills before those committees, and then searched for overlap with AAUW National policy priorities. Alyssa returns to Berkeley later in August. We will miss her!

### Setback for the Contraceptive Coverage Mandate in the ACA

Recently, a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas ruled that the contraceptive mandate in the ACA violated religious beliefs. The judge also issued a permanent injunction, stopping the federal government from enforcing the contraceptive mandate. As a result, the court stated that employers who have a sincere religious objection would no longer be required to comply with the contraceptive mandate. The exemption granted by the judge constitutes a considerable setback.

### Is Sex Stereotyping Discrimination Prohibited by Title VII?

LAF supports a Supreme Court case focusing on sex stereotyping in employment. We argue that there should be no Title VII (the Civil Rights Act) limit based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The case argues that allowing employers to discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity would undermine the ability of all employees who do not conform to sex stereotypes -- not only those who are LGBTQ -- to participate in our economy. This will be considered during the Fall 2019 Supreme Court term.

### Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Fights Sex Discrimination

#### LAF in Action: Three Key Cases Now

Louise Persson

#### Transgender Bathroom Use in School Case - Victory for LAF

Students and parents sued a school district in Pennsylvania, arguing that allowing transgender students to use their bathroom of choice violated the privacy of students who are not transgender. The Supreme Court decided not to hear the case, upholding the Lower Court's ruling in favor of the trans-inclusive bathroom policy. AAUW believes allowing students to use the facilities that best match their gender identity is consistent with Title IX's prohibition on sex discrimination in education. AAUW's LAF supported the school district in this case.

### SAVE THE DATES:

Wed Oct 16 7pm-8:30pm

**Third Wed Program:** Voter's Choice ([Jean Reed](#))

Fri Apr 17 – Sun Apr 19

**AAUW CA Convention**—Westin San Francisco Airport

# AAUW San Jose Branch BONFIRE

## September 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 Sep 2   | 10am - 1pm <b>Bridge First Monday</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )   |
| Tues Sep 3  | 10am - 12pm <b>German Conversation</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )   |
| Wed Sep 4   | 7pm - 8:30pm <b>AAUW BOARD Meeting</b> ( <a href="mailto:President@aauwsanjose.com">President@aauwsanjose.com</a> )   |
| Thu Sep 5   | 1pm - 3pm <b>Knitting Know How</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Margaret McCartney</a> )   |
| Sat Sep 7   | 11am-2pm. <b>Brunch and Pajama Party</b> , Fairbrae Swim&Racquet Club (Jan Giroux)  |
| Sun Sep 8   | TBD. <b>Film Fans</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Linda Snashall</a> )  |
| Mon Sep 9   | 10am - 1pm <b>Bridge 2nd Monday</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Rosemary Busch</a> )<br>6pm - 9pm <b>Light Gourmet</b> (Beverly Basset Hosting. RSVP <a href="#">Cheryl Markman</a> )   |
| Tue Sep 10. | 10am - 11:30am <b>Conversacion Espanol</b> (RSVP Barbara Snyder)<br>10am - 11:30am <b>Tuesday Morning Book Group</b> – The Gentleman in Moscow<br>6:30pm - 8pm <b>Neighbors Helping Neighbors</b> ( <a href="#">Bobbie Baker</a> )                    |
| Wed Sep 11  | 11am - 1pm <b>Art Appreciation Planning Meeting</b> ( <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )  |
| Thu Sep 12  | 1pm - 4pm <b>Bridge 2nd Thursday</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )  |
| Fri Sep 13  | 10am - 2pm <b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )  |
| Sat Sep 14  | 9:30am-11am <b>FALL GATHERING</b> - First Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton<br>6:30pm - 9:30pm <b>Couples Gourmet</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Margaret Bard</a> )  |
| Mon Sep 16  | 6:30pm - 8:30pm <b>International Gourmet</b> : Potluck (RSVP <a href="#">Jan Bartolotta</a> )   |
| Tue Sep 17  | 10am - 11:45am <b>French Conversation</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Barbara Snyder</a> )<br>1pm - 3pm <b>Knitting Know How</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Margaret McCartney</a> )   |
| Wed Sep 18  | 7pm - 8:30pm <b>3rd Wed Pgm: USEless Plastic-Rethinking Recycling</b> ( <a href="#">Jean Reed</a> )   |
| Thu Sep 19  | 10am - 12pm <b>Family History</b> ( <a href="#">Susan Brundage</a> )<br>7pm - 8:30pm <b>Mystery Lovers</b> <a href="mailto:mysterylovers@aauwsanjose.org">mysterylovers@aauwsanjose.org</a>   |
| Fri Sep 20  | 10am - 1pm <b>Bridge</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Lida Kluzek</a> )  |
| Sat Sep 21  | 10am - 10:30am <b>College University Relations Committee</b>  |
| Mon Sep 23  | 9:30am - 11am <b>Building and Properties Committee</b> ( <a href="#">Pamela Dougherty</a> )<br>11:30am - 12:30pm <b>Gourmet Vegetarian</b> ( <a href="#">Jean Wyatt</a> )<br>1pm - 4pm <b>Interbranch Council</b> (Sharon Bouska, IBC Representative) |
| Tue Sep 24. | 11:30am - 2pm <b>Lunch Bunch</b> ( <a href="#">Diana Taylor</a> )<br>1pm - 4pm <b>Bridge 4th Tuesday</b> (RSVP <a href="#">Bobbie Eckerman</a> )<br>7pm - 8:30pm <b>Great Decisions Evening Group</b> ( <a href="#">Karelle Cornwell</a> / Angie Ho)  |
| Fri Sep 27. | 11:30am - 1pm <b>Local Scholarship Fundraising Comm.</b> (Mary Jane Vitkovich)<br>1pm - 3pm <b>Local Scholarship</b> ( <a href="#">Margaret Bard</a> )  |
| Sat Sep 28  | 10am-12pm <b>Membership Open House</b> ( <a href="mailto:Membership@aauwsanjose.com">Membership@aauwsanjose.com</a> )   |

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**President:** Peg Carlson-Bowen

**BONFIRE Editor:** Anne Wustrow

**Editorial Staff:** Elin Bolt, Katherine Linnemann, 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**

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

**Save the Date**



**Third Wednesday Program**

**Voter's Choice**

**Wednesday October 16**

**7 - 8:30 pm**

Santa Clara County voting is changing soon, making it easier and more convenient than ever to vote! Please bring your friends and neighbors to this informative session that will prepare you to make sure your voice is heard and your vote will count!



*Empowering Women Since 1881*

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